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Sri Lanka Expels BBC-Guardian Reporter

HUMPHREY HAWKSLEY, reporter of the London based 'The Guardian' and the correspondent of the BBC in Colombo has been expelled from Sri Lanka.

Hawksley had been in Colombo for the last six months mainly covering issues relating to the ethnic conflict. His application for an extension of stay in Colombo was recently turned down and he was ordered to leave by the Sri Lankan government. No reasons have been given for the expulsion.

The mass media in Sri Lanka is substantially under state control and consequently biased towards the government. A 'kept press' helps the authorities to conceal from the bulk of the Sri Lankan people and the rest of the world the continuing atrocities committed against the Tamil people. In this context, the presence of foreign journalists in the country is anathema to the authorities.

The government permits foreign journalists into the country only on rare occasions. Many of them invariably enter the country disguised as visitors. They have to gain entry this way because the Sri Lankan missions abroad have been instructed to refuse visas for journalists.

What provoked Hawksley's expulsion is unclear. But what was unmistakably plain during his stay in Colombo was that his reports, both the Guardian and the BBC, were most embarrassing to the authorities, and even to some opposition Sinhala politicians. He was subjected to abuse in the local media, and reliable sources indicate that he was made a victim of threatening telephone calls and harassment.

In his last despatch to the Guardian (11 July) before being expelled, Hawksley reported on the indisciplined and frightened Sri Lankan army, characterised them as "the toy soldiers who became military monsters".

Government MP convicted of intimidation of police inspector

MEMBER of Parliament belonging to Sri Lanka's ruling party, Mr. Sunil Ranjan Jayakody, has been found guilty and convicted by the Chief Magistrate of Colombo of criminally intimidating the former Officer-in-Charge of the Polgahawela Police, Mr. Edison Gunatillake. Sentence was put off for August 25.

The Magistrate observed that he was putting off sentence to consider whether the charge against Mr. Jayakody could be considered as a Primary Court Action.

The charge of criminal intimidation against Mr. Jayakody was based on the threats made by Mr. Jayakody to get IP Gunatilleke killed; to get his wife raped and also to get IP Gunatilleke's house in Polgahawela destroyed.

In convicting Mr. Jayakody of the charges preferred against him the Magistrate said that the evidence placed before court by witnesses IP Dhanapala (a former OIC Polgahawela Police), Police Constable Jayasinghe and Lakshman Rodrigo (the brother-in-law of IP Gunatilleke) could be accepted beyond reasonable doubt.

Continued on page 24

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The Church in Sri Lanka – more Sinhala, less Christian

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES in Sri Lanka have not escaped the divisive and damaging consequences of the continuing Sinhala-Tamil ethnic conflict which effects the rest of the country. With the notable exceptions of the late Bishop Lakshman Wickremasinghe, the Reverend Soma Perera and a few others, the National Christian Council has remained deafeningly silent at a time when international ecumenical organizations have been looking to the N.C.C. for guidance and interpretation, and are anxious to extend whatever support they can. The inability or reluctance on the part of the N.C.C. to adopt a non-sectarian approach in respect of Government policies and the atrocities committed by the Security Forces, the principal victims of which have been the Tamil people, has resulted in an ethnic polarization within the Christian Churches. This is clearly reflected in the strained relationship between the N.C.C. and the affiliated Tamil Church of the Jaffna Diocese of South India.

The Roman Catholic hierarchy in Sri Lanka is no less polarised, and in fact is more divided than its Christian counterpart. The recent outburst by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Nicholas Marcus Fernando, the Chairman of the Catholic Bishops Conference, against the Catholic Bishop of Jaffna, the Rt. Rev. Dr. B. Deogupillai, is demonstrative of the deep ethnic division that is threatening the unity of the once monolithic Catholic Church.

This disgusting public spectacle of the head of the Catholic Church indulging in an open attack on a fellow Bishop has its own history. Following the many instances of the massacre of innocent Tamil civilians by the Sri Lankan security forces, the Catholic Bishops Conference of South India recently addressed an appeal to the Indian Prime Minister to take measures to prevent "the annihilation of Tamils of Sri Lanka". Dr. Marcus Fernando drafted a reply to this appeal denying that there was any persecution of Tamils and circulated it among his Bishops for approval. In spite of the objections raised by the Bishops of Jaffna, Batticaloa and Mannar (all Tamils) to the contents of the draft, Dr. Fernando sent out the reply as drafted and released it to the press which gave it maximum publicity. There is no doubt that, in this instance, as was the case in the past, Dr. Fernando succumbed to government pressure in doing what he did. About the same time, Dr. Fernando circulated another draft letter among the Bishops addressed to all Catholic Bishops in western countries denying that there was any persecution of the church or catholics or christians in Sri Lanka as claimed by 'Eelam supporters' living abroad. These two letters resulted in the Jaffna Bishop's speech at a school prizegiving function on June 18 in which the Bishop drew pointed attention to the atrocities committed against the defenceless Tamil civilians by the security forces:

"Bomb-blasts, rocket-blasts, shell-blasts, machine-gun fire have become everyday occurrences for us. We are being attacked from the land, from the sea and even from the air. Hundreds of peaceful, unarmed Tamil civilians have been killed or wounded during such attacks, carried out during the past few months by the Government Forces in places like Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Vavuniya, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Valvettiturai, Jaffna, Kayts, Mandaitivu.

Many peaceful Tamil civilians have been brutally massacred by the Armed Forces in Murunkan, Cheddikulam, Iruthayapuram, Akkaraipattu, Kurikadduvan, Mandaitivu, and other places. Thousands of peaceful Tamil civilians, who have been forced to flee from their traditional homes due to the activities of the Armed Forces, are not being properly cared for by the Government. Fishing, the only livelihood of thousands of peaceful Tamil civilians, has been totally banned in the Northern Eastern seas. All these clearly show that under the pretext of fighting the "Marxist Tamil terrorists" the Government is intent on the annihilation of the Tamils living in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

The Citizens' Committees of the Northern and Eastern Provinces have appealed several times to the President of Sri Lanka against these inhuman measures taken against peaceful defenceless people but with no effect. Since the peaceful Tamil civilians of the Northern and Eastern Provinces have no effective means at their disposal to defend themselves against the unjust attack on their lives and properties, the time has come, I feel, for us to raise our voice and make an appeal to the United Nations Organisation to take effective steps to halt the annihilation of the peaceful, defenceless Tamil civilians of the Northern and Eastern Provinces."

Such a courageous and outspoken exposure of the sufferings to which the Tamil people are subjected was too much for the southern-based Catholic hierarchy to stomach. Living in their safe, secure and comfortable palaces without experiencing the day to day trials and tribulations of the Tamil people, they have observed a menacing silence over the years in respect of the various acts of discrimination and oppression against the Tamil people. While in countries like Philippines and those of Latin America, the Church has been in the vanguard of the struggle against social injustice and human rights abuses, the Catholic hierarchy gradually succumbed to the ideology of Sinhala chauvinism. After the debacle of the Church's struggle to prevent the Buddhist-led state takeover of its schools in the 1960s and following the illfated abortive coup d'etat led by high ranking Catholic-Christian army, naval and police officers, the Church presumably adopted the dictum: 'If you cannot beat them, join them'. The "Sinhala Only" fervour in church practices became more and more manifest. For instance, in areas like Wattala, Mutwal and Kotahena in the Colombo district where there were approximately 30 to 40 per cent Tamil speaking parishioners, the churches refused to accommodate the request of the Tamil speaking laity to say mass in the Tamil language at least once a month.

In its eagerness to resist the charge by Sinhala-Buddhist extremists that the Christian tradition was an 'alien element' within the Sri Lankan body politic, the Church commenced its campaign to establish its own 'Sinhala authenticity'. Tamils, whether they be Catholics, Christians or Hindus, had to be sacrificed to establish the so-called authentic Sinhala identity of the Church. In this campaign, many leading members of the Church have become more Sinhala and less Christian.

A FEDERAL SYSTEM OR A TAMIL LINGUISTIC REGION –

ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO SEPARATION

The proposals made by the President at the political parties conference on the 25th of June is the subject matter of all political discussions in the country. We do not have to have any excuse to offer our own comments. One fundamental weakness of these proposals is that it does not seek to identify the problem correctly.

The President states at the beginning that these proposals should be examined within the framework of

- the maintenance of the unity, integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka,
- the maintenance of the unitary character of the Sri Lankan constitution, and
- the principles of devolution of powers upon the provincial councils within the framework of the constitution as proposed to be amended.

Why should this be so? One can understand the importance of maintaining the unity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka. But why is it equally important to maintain the unitary character of the Sri Lankan constitution. In at least three of the great powers of the world – America, Russia and India, there are federal systems of Government. In Russia and India the federal units are based on ethnicity of language. Can anyone dare to come forward and accuse that because of the lack of the unitary character of their constitution these countries are not united or have suffered in any other way.

For a long time past, the Tamils of Sri Lanka have urged that the unitary nature of Sri Lanka's constitution has been a stumbling block to the solution of the Tamil minority problem. That is why, when in 1948, the late Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayagam parted company with the All Ceylon Tamil Congress after he realised that power-sharing at the centre with the Sinhalese could not succeed, he went on to advocate that Sri Lanka should have a federal system of Government under which the Tamils and Sinhalese could co-exist under agreed circumstances.

It was however not S. J. V. Chelvanayagam who was the first to think of a federal solution to Sri Lankan problems. That honour goes to the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, who advocated this system in 1926, soon after his return from Oxford in a speech he delivered on July 14 to a Student Congress and reported in the Ceylon Morning Leader of Saturday 18 July 1926. He conceived of a federal system Government of the Tamils, the Kandyan Sinhalese and the low-country Sinhalese.

In the following year in 1927 the Kandyan Chiefs Association suggested a federal form of Government to the Donoughmore Commission which was then in Sri Lanka. The Commissioners recommended an examination of a suggestion to have three self governing areas viz first being the northern and eastern provinces, the second Kandyan Province and the third Southern and Western provinces. But it is worthwhile noting that both the northern and eastern provinces were bracketed together as one self-governing unit. But none of these proposals ever saw the light of day.

It is important to remind the President and the Sinhala leadership that the present discussion for greater devolution of power has stemmed from the 1976 demand for a separate state of Eelam and the consequent armed struggle by the militants in support of it. To ignore this basic fact is to be like an ostrich hiding its head in the sand.

By N. SANMUGATHASAN

One does not easily forget that at the first All-parties conference in 1984, the Government trumpeted through its Prime-minister that it would give nothing more than District Development Councils to the Tamils. If today the President has proposed provincial council as the unit of devolution, the credit must go to the struggle conducted by the Tamil militants against heavy odds.

What is equally important to realise is that although it was only the Tamils who agitated for greater devolution of power, the provincial councils have been promised to all provinces, even to those who never asked for it.

But, the granting of Provincial Councils is not a solution to the Tamil problem. The demand of the Tamils was for Eelam. As a result of the pressure from India and other moderate elements, a section of the Tamil leadership agreed to consider the possibility of a viable alternative. That was what all the discussions were about but at no stage did the Sinhala Government relent sufficiently to go anywhere near the Tamil desire for greater autonomy. The present proposals are nothing different.

If the Tamils are to give up demand for Eelam, there has to be a viable alternative. Such an alternative can only either be a federal system of Government within a United Sri Lanka or genuine regional autonomy for a Tamil Linguistic Region which shall consist of the northern and eastern provinces. Of course, it needs hardly to be said that such a Regional Council shall have full power over education, economy and industry, law and order (police), irrigation and land and land settlement, culture etc., while such subjects as defence, finance, foreign affairs etc., will be reserved exclusively for the Centre.

Anything less than such a system cannot be accepted by any self-respecting Tamil.

We have also to address ourselves to the question of linkage between the northern and eastern provinces which has been totally rejected by the Government. This is a fundamental demand of the Tamils because it is only in a big region that they can safely organise their security in order that they could avoid holocausts, like those of July 1983. The argument that is being advanced against the demand for linking the north and east is that it is anti-democratic because all three communities are equally represented in the eastern province. What these arguments fail to see is that the influx of Sinhalese into the eastern province was state-imposed and took place as late as after the second world war.

To these people who are misled by such arguments against linkage, we would like to give the example of Israel. For 2000 years the Jews never lived in Palestine. Palestine was entirely populated by other races. Yet in 1917, the British Balfour Declaration gave its support for a Jewish National Home in Palestine although the majority of the people living there were Palestinians. Then was organised a steady stream of illegal Jewish immigration, just as Sinhalese colonists were planted in Tamil areas. By 1948 Palestine was partitioned with the blessing of the UN and the majority reduced to servitude. Was it adherence to the principles of democracy that made the UN close its eyes to the democratic majority of Palestinian residents? Or was it Zionist political pressure that caused them to close their eyes to the injustices to the Arabs?

This is not a question of democracy. It is a matter of politics. The Tamils cannot accept anything less than full Regional Autonomy for a Tamil linguistic region which shall consist of the northern and eastern provinces.

"I AM A TAMIL TOO"

Referring to the recent Sri Lanka Government peace proposals the Economist of August 9th states: ". . . on the day before the aid donors' meeting in Paris in June . . . Mr. Jayawardene iced the cake by shyly announcing his own Tamil origins . . ."

ENLF ON GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS

Memorandum submitted by Eelam National Liberation Front to the Government of India on the latest proposals of the Sri Lankan government.

SUBSEQUENT to the request from the Government of India and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to state our position on whether we accept the latest proposals of the Sri Lankan government as a basis for negotiations, we give below our collective decision and the rationale behind it. Our position is derived from a careful and thorough consideration of factors pertaining to the structure and essence of the proposal, as well as the overall politico-military and civil situation prevailing in the country.

DECISION

We do not perceive the latest Sri Lankan proposal as a basis for negotiations for the resolution of the nationality problem or, to what could be termed the Tamil National Question in Sri Lanka.

RATIONALE

1. The prevailing politico-military and civil situation

a. The Sri Lankan armed forces acting under instructions from the Sri Lankan government are continuing with their military offensive in the Tamil areas in the Northern and Eastern provinces.

b. Although our armed resistance has been successful in repelling and blunting these offensives, the loss of civilian lives has increased. In short the genocidal situation has further deteriorated and the Sri Lankan government has openly admitted to this as being inevitable in its pursuance of a military option. It has further stated that the military offensive would continue till the Eelam liberation movement is militarily annihilated or accepts an imposed solution. This is tantamount to blackmail and threat and our acceptance of this would imply an unconditional surrender. Although our people are peace-loving they are not prepared to accept peace at any cost.

c. Search and cordon operations by the Sri Lankan security forces have been intensified after the submission of the proposal to the Government of India. In these operations more than 5000 Tamils have been rounded-up over the past week, particularly in the sensitive area of Trincomalee. The deliberate displacement of Tamils from their domicile and disruption of their socio-economic existence through the destruction of crops, curbs on fishing activities and transport of essentials makes a total mockery of the offer of a negotiated settlement by the Sri Lankan government.

d. Despite the restoration of citizenship rights to plantation Tamils, there has been a drastic deterioration in their fundamental democratic and human rights, in addition to immediate threats to their lives and property. The incidents in Talawakelle over the past few days where plantation Tamils were brutally attacked by Sinhala goondas and by the security forces is a case in point.

e. There has been an increase in the arrests and incarceration of Sinhala human rights and political activists who have been expressing their opposition to the genocidal situation facing their Tamil brethren as well as against the increasing pauperization of the Sinhala masses. At the other end of the spectrum, the forces of Sinhala-Buddhist chauvinism have intensified their campaign to oppose any political concessions to the Tamil People.

Thus, given the above politico-military and civil situation prevailing in the Island, it is clearly evident that a congenial atmosphere does not exist for the renewal of direct talks with the degenerate, racist Sri Lankan government.

2. THE PROPOSAL

a. The proposal by stressing on the permanence and the misplaced sanctification of the unitary character of the Constitution, prevents any meaningful dialogue on the further widening and deepening of devolution of power. This belies the claim made by J.R. Jayawardene that the proposal is only a minimum and there is scope for further expansion.

b. The proposal does not recognize the concept and the reality of a Tamil homeland. Instead, it seeks to bifurcate the Tamil homeland by treating the Northern and Eastern provinces as two distinct entities. The proposal also seeks to separate the plantation Tamils and the areas developed and inhabited by them from the Tamil homeland.

c. The proposals do not recognize the Tamils of Sri Lanka (or the Eelam People) as a distinct nationality or of Sri Lanka as a country inhabited by two distinct nationalities with their respective languages, culture, heritage, contiguous territories and socio-economic and political histories. More importantly, it does not recognise the fact that the Eelam People are oppressed as a distinct nationality. As a matter of fact, nowhere in the proposal is there a reference to the Tamil People or to their homeland; instead, it merely speaks of communities and arbitrary provincial boundaries.

The delegation of power mentioned in the proposal is a mere exercise in administrative reforms in relation to delegation of power from the centre to the periphery and does not even pretend to be a solution to the nationality problem which has shaken the very fabric of the Sri Lankan polity.

In addition to the above, the decision by the Sri Lankan government to unilaterally implement the proposal is a flagrant violation of the inalienable right of self-determination of the oppressed Tamil nationality of Sri Lanka. Not only does this stand tantamount to a blatant act of provocation, but also it exposes the insincerity and the insensitivity of the J.R. Jayawardene regime.

AN APPEAL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

We wish to take this opportunity to thank the Government of India for the support that it has extended to our beloved People who have been displaced and dislocated from their domicile and have sought refuge in India. We also call on the Government of India to continue with its efforts to bring about a negotiated settlement to the nationality problem that would ensure and guarantee a just, fair and a permanent solution and enable our beloved People to live with honour and dignity. In the meantime we appeal to the Government of India to extend maximum political, moral and material support to the Eelam liberation movement in enabling it to protect the Eelam People from national oppression, state terrorism and genocide.

A. SELVAM, *General Secretary, Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO)*

V. BALAKUMAR, *Member, Executive Committee of Eelam Revolutionary Organization (EROS)*

K. PATHMANABHA, *Secretary-General of Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF)*

TULF ON DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT

MADRAS, July 25

A DRAFT BILL, containing the Sri Lankan Government's recent proposals to solve the ethnic issue and based on the discussions the TULF leaders had with the island Government will be given a final form when the TULF goes to Colombo in August to resume the discussions.

The TULF secretary-general, Mr. A. Amirthalingam, told THE HINDU today that in terms of the proposals handed over to the delegation headed by the Union Minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, the Sri Lankan Government had prepared certain draft laws, constitutional amendments and also a provincial council bill. The TULF leaders discussed this draft with the Sri Lankan Government clause by clause, expressed their views and suggested modifications. Subsequently another draft was prepared, which was discussed again. The Sri Lankan Government promised the TULF yet another draft on the whole structure, which it had not yet received.

Asked what the contents of the draft bill were, Mr. Amirthalingam said once the draft bill was given the final form, he might be able to say something about it. The draft bill had not been prepared yet. In fact, it had been suggested that the details of the draft bill should not be divulged till after the final discussions took place.

Replying to a question, he said it could not be said that anything had been finalised and in this situation, one could not say this was what the Sri Lankan Government had agreed to.

***Law and order:** The TULF had discussed with the Sri Lankan Government the law and order subject on Tuesday and the Government took down its views. It had promised to give them a draft which it had not yet received. There was no serious dispute on the law and order subject, but the TULF wanted some points to be improved.*

INDIA EXPECTS MORE FROM COLOMBO

Madras, July 13

THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, MR. P. SHIV SHANKAR, today hoped that the Sri Lankan President, Mr. J.R. Jayawardene, would come forward with further concessions during his talks with the TULF leaders now being held in Colombo.

Talking to newsmen, Mr. Shiv Shankar said Mr Jayawardene had stated earlier that the proposals he had put forward were 'rock-bottom'. On the other hand, India felt that these proposals could form a basis for discussion with the Tamil minority in solving the island's ethnic problem. "India hopes that the Sri Lankan President will stand up to his word by offering more concessions to solve the issue amicably," the Minister added.

Militants' misgivings: Asked about the militants' misgivings on the proposals while the moderates were preparing the ground for talks, Mr. Shiv Shankar said India had always held the view that any solution to the ethnic problem had to be within the framework of a united Sri Lanka. Any successful administration would make the minorities feel secure and it was up to the Sri Lankan Government to satisfy the aspirations of the Tamil minorities who were feeling unsettled. The Sri Lankan President should come more than half way in finding a negotiated settlement to the ethnic problem, Mr. Shiv Shankar noted.

Buddhist clergy's opposition: To a question whether the Buddhist clergy's opposition to the proposals would have any bearing on the decision of the Sri Lankan President, Mr. Shiv Shankar said just because a section of the clergy opposed them, the proposals need not be shelved. "Otherwise, the clergy should rule the island," he said.

The Minister said India hoped that Mr. Jayawardene would take adequate care in dealing with the situation, notwithstanding the opposition from the Buddhist clergy. "What is required is political will and a political personality to see through the latest proposals and I am confident that Mr. Jayawardene would resolve the crisis," he said.

Militants await outcome of talks

New Delhi, July 13

ON THE CONCLUSION of their talks with the Government of India today, the Sri Lankan Tamil militants stuck to their reservations about the latest Colombo package on the ethnic problem, but agreed not to disturb the negotiations between the moderates and the Sri Lankan President, Mr. J.R. Jayawardene.

As at their hour-long meeting with Mr. G. Parthasarathy, Chairman, Policy Advisory Committee yesterday, the militants today discussed with the Foreign Secretary, Mr. A.P. Venkateswaran, various aspects of the proposals and clarifications given by the Sri Lankan Government to India. They agreed to India's suggestion that nothing be done to create difficulties now that the leaders of the TULF had opened a dialogue with Mr. Jayawardene to explore the chances of a political settlement.

It was their impression that no arrangement would be finalised, let alone implemented, without consulting them. At the same time, they reserved the right to "explain the true nature of the proposals to our people."

The main objection of the militants related to the flexibility of the arrangements – the provincial councils and the like – visualised in the Colombo package. According to them, it did not provide institutional safeguards for the minorities and what was being promised now could be changed by the majority in Parliament on the plea of its supremacy. Secondly, they were unhappy that their demand for the merger of the Tamil areas in the North and East had been rejected. On this issue, they noted that the stand of the Sri Lankan Government was backed by the Opposition parties.

The Foreign Secretary, it appears, explained the position of the Government of India – how it had used its good offices to find a way out of the protracted crisis. It was in pursuance of this line, the militants were told, that the TULF leaders were advised to negotiate with the Sri Lankan Government and use the package as the basic paper to get a satisfactory deal for the Tamils.

The militants agreed to await the outcome of the discussions, though they did not have any illusions about it. The package, they repeated, fell short of the four principles they had enunciated at Thimpu – recognition of the separate identity of the Tamils, of their right for a homeland and self-determination and citizenship for the Tamil plantation workers.

By courtesy of "The Hindu"

Forced Sinhala settlements: Sinhala woman goes to Court

A victim of a terrorist attack at Dehiwatta, who sought refuge back in her ancestral home at Hambantota has filed a petition in the Supreme Court alleging that she and other victims are being forced by the authorities to go back to the terrorism affected areas. K.A.K. Kusumawathie in her fundamental rights petition has prayed for a declaration of court that she and the other refugees are free to live anywhere in the island, specially in the Hambantota district as it is safe and her relatives are living there. She has also sought an interim order restraining the authorities from taking any action to send her back to terrorist affected area. According to the petitioner she is a resident of Dehiwatta and her ancestral home was at Hambantota. In May 1985, terrorists had attacked her village including her house and looted her belongings. During that period about 50 families including hers were taken to Agrabodhi refugees camp. On June 9 she was compelled by authorities to return to her village by vehicle without being given adequate security Kusumawathie complains.

Thereafter on June 11 the village was attacked again by terrorists and many people were killed. She was brought back to Agrabodhi camp by the security forces. She says living conditions in the camp were harsh due to shortage of essential food, malpractice and corruption. The girls were unprotected and vulnerable to sexual harassment. She and several others found accommodation in the camp of an organisation helping refugees. Later they decided to go back to her home at Ambalantota.

(The Sun – 10th June 1986)

The "Daily News" of 5th July reported that the Supreme Court has granted the State four weeks' time to file objections to the fundamental rights application by Mrs. E.A. Kusumawathie, of Neelapola, Dehiwatta, presently of Ambalantota, Hambantota, challenging the action of state officials to take her back to Dehiwatta from where she had come in fear of terrorist attacks.

The Attorney-General, the I.G.P., the OIC Ambalantota Police, Mr. D.D. Herath, G.A. Hambantota, Mr. K. Austin Fernando, Commissioner of Rehabilitation and Mr. Dhanapala former O.I.C. Hambantota Police Station, have been cited as respondents to the application.

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PRIEST'S MURDER BY ARMY

– eyewitness account –

By courtesy of Saturday Review

Brother, M. Wenceslaus of the Rosarian Tholagatty Monastery, Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka was murdered by the security forces on June 20.

The following eye-witness account was given by an 11 year old boy who was close to the scene of the crime:

"I, Arulanantham Kamaleswaran, born September 1975, residing at Tholagatty, Vasavilan, being a Roman Catholic, do make oath and swear as follows:

"I am living with my mother, Poomany Arulanantham, in a house situated about 500 yards from the Rosarian Monastery at Tholagatty.

"I was studying in Grade 4 at the Vasavilan Roman Catholic School, Vasavilan, till 17th May, 1986.

"This school was closed lately because the Army had set up a camp close to the school.

"During school days I am free in the afternoon as the school is only a single session school that closes for the day at 1.30 p.m.

"I, therefore, go to the Tholagatty Monastery whenever I am free and help the monks at the farm in the Monastery. Once a week the monks used to pay me for my labour.

"On 20th June, as the school was closed, I went to work at the Monastery farm at 8 a.m.

"I was engaged in cutting sticks in the southern section of the Monastery on the instructions of Brother Barnabas who remained in the northern section of the Monastery, which was across the road.

"These sticks of five foot length each are used as supports for king yam creepers.

"As I could not carry the whole lot at once, I carried them in lots of a few at a time.

"When I had crossed over to the northern section of the Monastery on one of these trips, I heard a series of gun shots and I remained there till there was a lull in the firing, and continued with my task of carrying the sticks from the southern section.

"When I was about to carry the last lot I saw about 12 Army personnel in the premises of the southern section. They were in uniform, wore footwear, carried guns and about three of them had portable radios in their hands with long antennaes.

"They were about 20 yards away from the cattleshed of the monastery farm.

"At this time Brother Wenceslaus had put straw for the cattle in the cattleshed and was turning back to go to his room. Brother Wenceslaus was dressed in a khaki habit and wore a sash around his waist.

"Through fear, I ran towards the Church which was closed and hid near a bush near the west end of the Church.

"From there in a crouched position I saw the same Army personnel who then appeared to be speaking to Brother Wenceslaus.

"In a short while I saw one Army man striking Brother Wenceslaus on his hands with some long black object. I saw Brother Wenceslaus being struck on his hands twice. The other soldiers had guns in their hands as if ready to fire.

"I was so frightened that I decided to run away. As I ran towards the gate of the southern section of the Monastery, I heard a gun shot coming from the direction of the cattleshed where I had seen Brother Wenceslaus and the Army men last.

"Besides Brother Wenceslaus and the Army men I did not see anyone else in the premises.

"A short while later I went home and narrated these events to my mother."

Note by the Editor: *The boy was interviewed by me. I am satisfied that the events he has narrated are true. I wish to ask Lankapuwath to take over.*

'STOP THESE MURDERS'

Text of a press release issued by Rev. Fr. J.E. Jayaseelan, Secretary of the Northern Branch of the Movement for Inter-racial Justice and Equality (MIRJE).

We are shocked and grieved at the recent slaughter of 31 innocent fishermen from Gurunagar by the Armed Forces on Wednesday 10th June. They were fishing in the waters of the Jaffna Lagoon off the coast of Mandaitivu. They had gone on their fishing programme of madal fishing when they were rounded up, lined up and gunned to death. The death was ghastly, as they were battered, gored and slashed with knives before they were gunned down. Among the group were innocent lads of 12 and 14 years, a 16 year old and those who were past 60 years.

The MIRJE (Northern Branch) expresses its heartfelt sympathies to the families of the unfortunate victims who went in pursuit of their traditional occupation totally unmindful that they would be felled by assassins who parade as security forces and guardians of law and order.

We note with regret and concern that the government is drifting towards annihilation of human rights and making a travesty under the pretence of wiping out terrorism. We observe that the target of attack were innocent civilians and their property. There seems to be a lack of concern on the part of the authorities about the excessive measures of brutality exercised by the armed forces. This wanton destruction of lives will ultimately climax in the annihilation of the Tamils.

We urge the government to:

(1) Stop these deliberate murders – Catch the culprits and deal with gangsterism with an iron hand; (2) Honour, respect and abide by the norms and standards of the Covenant of Human Rights subscribed to and ratified by this Government.

EMERGENCY RULE MADE EASY

State Minister Anandatissa de Alwis recently announced government's decision to amend the Constitution to enable Parliament to pass emergency regulations without calling for a 2/3rd majority. This 10th amendment to the Constitution was approved by Cabinet yesterday on a proposal by the Minister of Justice Nissanka Wijeyeratne. The Minister briefing the Press after the Cabinet meeting said that the Government would amend the Constitution since it was very difficult to get all the members to be in the House at the same time, when passing emergency regulations. Mr. de Alwis further said that under proportional representation no Government would get a 2/3rd majority in the future.

BRUSH WITH DEATH

A Dutchman, Rev. Fr. Omla, attached to the Paranthan parish of St. Anthony's, was returning from Kumarapuram by jeep in the forenoon of 8th July when he was chased by a helicopter and shot at. He had a narrow escape from death. His assistant, Francis Xavier (24), was seriously injured in the firing. Fr. Omla is reported to have got down from the jeep and held aloft the crucifix he was wearing. In spite of this, the firing went on. Francis Xavier who sustained injuries on his hands, legs and stomach was brought through Poonakari and admitted to Jaffna hospital.

Father Omla is 65 years old and has been discharging his spiritual function in Sri Lanka for the last 38 years.

His jeep which was damaged in the firing, was green and had a Red Cross painted on the hood.

PROTEST AGAINST KILLING OF PRIEST

The people of Point Pedro conducted a mass demonstration march from St. Anthony's Church, Point Pedro, to St. Anthony's Church, Karaveddy, on 27th June in protest against the killing of Bro. Emmanuel Wenceslaus of the Holy Rosary Ashram at Tholagatty by the Security Forces. Both Christians and Hindus participated in the procession, carrying the Holy Cross in turns. Some slogans on the placards carried in the procession were "Hands off clergymen", "Is the 66-year-old clergyman a terrorist?", "Stop killing Innocents", "Stop destroying churches and temples", "Stop killing women and children", "Don't keep Tamils as hostages".

"HOME GUARDS" KILL 34

At Thambalagamam in Trincomalee district, 34 bodies including that of a woman were discovered in the jungle on 28th June. The bodies were later identified as that of a mill owner, his wife and mill workers. Home guards had allegedly abducted these 34 people at the point of a gun. The owner was a paralytic. His son discovered his body when he went in search of his mother in the jungle.

LETTER TO THE GOVERNMENT BY THE DEPARTED WHO ONCE LIVED BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

I was hungry – *but the new rich you created by your economic policies fed their cats, dogs, and pets with my food. You even imported food for cats and dogs while I starved.*

I was hungry – *and you encouraged multinationals to plant winged beans and waste money for five years to produce yard-long Dambala, instead of using that money on research to produce more and cheaper subsidiary food crops and cowpea for my family.*

I was hungry – *and because the billionaires you produced within a short space of time, did not give up their T-bone steak in the big hotels, you subsidised them heavily.*

I was hungry – *but you allowed multinationals to cultivate sugar cane at Moneragala in order to sell their sugar at higher prices, while I was deprived of the land that grew my daily meal, I was reduced to an agricultural labourer.*

I was hungry – *and you made cricket the country's first priority spending money and time to giddy limit that eroded the productivity of people in all walks of life, and made cricket the opium of the people!*

I was hungry – *while you allowed waste and corruption to increase despite the pleas of your own Minister of Finance and the resultant price increases reduced my family's food basket.*

I was hungry – *and money that could have been used to produce food on available irrigable lands was used for constructing dams that made your 1977 promises a set of damn lies.*

I was hungry – *but you removed the food subsidies only to waste the money saved on unproductive projects and opening ceremonies that have now become carnivals at all odd times of the day.*

I was hungry – *but you watched unconcerned local and foreign cartels control food production and imports, and allowed my Lakspray which was Rs. 6.50 per lb to be raised to Rs. 29.50 per pound.*

I was hungry – *but you never cared to learn that all the food the world produces in one year, if distributed according to need, will ensure that every single person on earth gets a ton of food that contains more than adequate protein and energy.*

I was hungry – *but you allowed millions to be spent on seminars and training of the trained, and re-training, and training trainers ad nauseam.*

I was hungry – *but you did not ask yourself the priority question why people in Sri Lanka go hungry, outline the main food issues and demand solutions to those problems. Instead you surrounded yourself with expatriate Sri Lankans who are nothing but conduits for business interests in their land of adoption, and may soon entice you to start a Star Wars Program!*

I was hungry – *but you never took action on the reports of increasing malnutrition, although those we have left behind, the surviving victims, will be physically less developed, mentally less alert and more susceptible to disease.*

I was hungry – *but you remained unaware of the facts that stale bread, spoilt vegetables and fruits in the dustbins of rich homes and the big hotels you put up could have fed me and thousands of others who had to shorten their sojourn on Earth.*

I was hungry – *but you never ask your friends who got you into the debt trap the morality of wasting food deliberately by dumping food into the sea in order to keep the prices of food high.*

Real human development and social justice are closely related to peace. Many of the causes of conflict in Sri Lanka relate to the sharp polarisation of wealth and poverty among all races.

Gandhi said poverty is the worst kind of violence.

Courtesy of CHRISTIAN WORKER, 1st Qr. 1986

A SELECTION OF RECENT REPORTS FROM SRI LANKAN NEWSPAPERS

By Courtesy of Tamil Information and Research Unit, Madras

Army advised to walk!

Walking, instead of travelling in vehicles, was the only answer to landmines which are responsible for 99 per cent of deaths among the security forces in the North and East. This was said by Minister of National Security, Lalith Athulathmudali, after he declared open a factory for the production of white coconut fibre at Seenimodera, Beliatte on Monday. The Minister said that security forces had studied various methods they could adopt to overcome the landmine hazard, and had found that walking in readiness for combat was the best way landmines could be avoided.

It should be done as a battle exercise in combat formation. The effectiveness of such walking was proved only two days ago when 100 soldiers walked from Medawachchiya to Mannar, a distance of 70 miles. Although the "terrorists" had fired mortars at the soldiers, they were able to repulse the attack successfully without any soldiers getting even injured. . .

(The Island, 4th June, 1986)

TEA PRICES TUMBLE

Sri Lanka's tea prices this week ousted Indonesia's as the world's lowest, plummeting to less than Rs.25.50 a kilogram, the cheapest in nearly four years. Prices for all grades of tea fell and the trade said the decline was bound to continue with a larger quantity of tea on offer at the next auction. The withdrawal of the Soviet Union from the auctions, its second in six months, and the continued non-participation of Egypt did not help in creating a better demand, brokers explained. Monday's prices which were the lowest at the Colombo auctions since August 1982 were at least ten rupees below the cost of production, plantation sector officials said.

(Sunday, June 11, 1986)

Sri Lanka solidarity with South African blacks

Sri Lanka became the 26th nation to announce its boycott of the Commonwealth Games recently concluded in Edinburgh. The Foreign Ministry stated that this was a demonstration of Sri Lanka's solidarity with the people of South Africa in their struggle against apartheid.

It is ironic that not long ago South African arms and ammunition were pouring into Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan tea was also finding its way into south African ports.

(Saturday Review, June 15th, 1986)

Paul Nallanayagam freed

Kalmunai Citizens Commitee Chairman, Paul Nallanayagam, who was charged on four counts, walked out of the Colombo High Court as a free man last month. He was charged for (1) conspiracy; (2) spreading false rumours regarding incidents at Karitivu; (3) spreading false rumours regarding incidents at Oluvil; and (4) spreading false rumours regarding incidents at Natpittimunji.

Mr. Nallanayagam, a retired member of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, was defended by Messrs. S. Nadesan, Q.C., J.C.T. Kotelawela, Ms Suriya Wickremesinghe, Messrs. Ainsley Samarajiwa, J.F. Xavier, K.S. Alagarajah and Miss Nimalka Fernando. The additional Solicitor General, Mr. Sunil de Silva and State Counsel, Mr. Nihara Rodrigo, prosecuted. *(Saturday Review, June 15, 1986)*

AIR LANKA: NO TAKERS

It's a waste of paradise for Sri Lanka's national carrier Airlanka. Faced with mounting losses and declining tourist traffic that has now slowed to a trickle it planned a mission of image building. In association with the Ceylon Tourist Board, the air line offered a free holiday for the survivors of the May 3 bomb blast aboard its tristar "City of Colombo". But, air line officials now find after sending letters to all survivors there are no takers. Hence the first of a series of promotional measures Airlanka hoped to undertake in collaboration with the Ceylon Tourist Board has been abandoned before it got off the ground. *(Weekend – 15th June 1986)*

OVER 3000 DETAINED IN SRI LANKA'S PRISONS

The following are extracts from a comprehensive report dated 9 June 1986 by the Campaign for the Release of Political Prisoners (CROPP) in Sri Lanka.

THE CAMPAIGN for the Release of Political Prisoners (CROPP) was organised in December 1985 by a group of citizens concerned over the increasing number of arbitrary arrests and detentions taking place in Sri Lanka under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and the Emergency Regulations.

Reports of arrests of hundreds of Tamil youth under the PTA and Emergency Regulations have continued to flow in from the Northern and Eastern parts of the country. As the Amnesty International Report on Extra-Judicial Killings in Sri Lanka in the period from September 1985 to March 1986 (Document ASA 37/03/86) describes, state terror and violence in those areas is unleashed not only against those who bear arms against the state but also, and increasingly more so, against unarmed and defenceless civilians.

In this general atmosphere of repression and violation of basic human and civil rights which are abhorrent and intolerable in any democratic society, the practice of arbitrary arrest, detention, torture and 'disappearance' has, over the past two years, extended to the South of the island, thus bringing a new dimension to the struggle for democracy in Sri Lanka.

A rough estimate indicates that there are now over 3000 such detainees in prisons and camps throughout the island. Of these 230 Tamils and 40 Sinhalese are at the Welikada Prison in Colombo; approximately 2000 Tamils are in the largest detention camp, at Boosa in the Southern Province; the rest are held in various Army Camps and Police Stations. There are among these detainees some who have been in detention for over 18 months, which is the maximum time period stipulated even under the PTA, by when a detainee must either be produced before a Magistrate and arraigned, or released. (See Appendix I).

The conditions under which these detainees are being held are abominable. Under the provisions of the PTA, their place and conditions of detention are determinable entirely at the discretion of the Minister and therefore even the Standard Minimum Regulations applicable to prisoners under the UN Charter do not in this case apply. As one detainee has written:

"The places of detention vary from lock-ups at Police Stations and Army Camps to Special Detention Camps for 'terrorists'. Some are also being detained at the Remand Prison in Colombo. Many of them are denied even the elementary facilities provided to ordinary remand prisoners. For example, many suspects detained in Police Stations are being kept 24 hours inside the cell, thus depriving them of even a few minutes of fresh air. Moreover, they are being kept along with common criminal suspects and, in certain cases, even with lunatics."

The majority of the detainees complain about the lack of a nutritious and balanced diet, sanitation and health care facilities, exercise and fresh air. Visits are restricted, reading and writing materials rarely made available and even contact with lawyers not permitted in most cases.

Movement for Inter Racial Justice and Equality as well as other civil rights organisations have continually drawn attention to the fact that conditions of detention under PTA make possible the physical harassment and torture of detainees. Cases of torture, murder and 'disappearance' of Tamil detainees in army camps and police stations in the north and east have been adequately documented both by national and international organisations. Here, specific attention is drawn to the fact that the practice of torture of detainees has now become generalised in the South as well.

Several instances of such physical harassment have been brought to the notice of CROPP. One such tragic instance led to the death, while in the custody of the Kollupitiya Police, of S.D.S. Mapitigama of Ratmalana. Even though a verdict of suicide was returned at the magisterial inquiry, there remain many unsatisfactory aspects that have not been satisfactorily clarified.

Assault and torture while in police custody are by no means new; however, several cases that have come to light recently, such as the death of W.A. Dayaratna of Wellawa while in police custody where a verdict of homicide was returned at the magisterial inquiry, the 'disappearances' of Graetian Ananda of Hambantota and of Ananda Sunil of Kotahena bear witness to the impunity with which citizens of Sri Lanka are killed or 'made to disappear' by the police.

Reports coming in from those close to arrested persons reveal that tactics of arrest and detention long associated with repressive regimes in Latin America and in Asia, in the Philippines under the Marcos Government, have been put into practice in Sri Lanka.

- *People are followed and picked up from the street, from public transport, in unmarked vehicles by persons in civil clothes.*
- *Houses and boarding houses are raided at night.*
- *Torches are flashed into the faces of suspects to 'blind' them and prevent identification.*
- *Private homes and offices are used as places of detention and interrogation; for example, a JEDB estate (State controlled Plantation Board). Pantrene, at Avissawella, is alleged to be one such place.*
- *Families are never informed as to the cause of arrest; deliberate deception is also resorted to, to prevent families pursuing inquiries.*

What is most reprehensible is that, as Mrs. Nilamuni's letter (Appendix II) bears out, these arrests take place without the knowledge of local Police officers, thus making it all the more difficult to trace a person once he or she has been taken in. The most recent case brought to our notice is that of a middle aged woman, Vijitha Piyaseeli, who was arrested by the Mirihana Police on 10th May 1986, in the course of a house-search for her husband. She is present detained at the Remand Prison in Colombo.

While conditions of arrest and of detention should be of concern to all those interested in the preservation of human and democratic rights, what concerns CROPP even more is the evidence that powers of arbitrary arrest and detention arrogated by the state are being increasingly used to silence its political opponents and to stifle popular protest against the regime.

The state has been extremely secretive about the correct number or whereabouts of these detainees. Even the Monitoring Committee into Ceasefire Violations, which was authorised to visit prisons and detention camps and report on their conditions, was, as far as we are aware, unable to get a complete list of detainees or even accurate figures of those detained. CROPP's efforts to obtain precise information in this case have been equally unsuccessful.

It has also not been possible to get the state to give these prisoners any special status as 'political' prisoners. The PTA Advisory Board, which has been authorised to look into the position of those persons detained under the PTA is also only able to make recommendations to the state which need not necessarily be implemented. Thus, for example, Mr. Charles de Silva Nilamuni, a 60 year old retired Bank official from Kurunegala, whose release has been recommended due to his age and ill-health, is still being detained, unable even to secure a special diet in accordance with his condition.

CROPP sees the continuing arrests and detentions as a gross violation of the democratic rights of free political expression and a further indication of the authoritarianism that has characterised Sri Lankan polity in recent years.

It is in this light that CROPP seeks to alert all political parties and groups, mass organisations, human rights groups and activists and other concerned persons in

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Sri Lankan spies in Madras

SRI LANKAN Tamil organisations in Madras have long been wary of infiltration by the Sri Lankan intelligence. They knew that spies trained in Colombo were being sent into India in the guise of Tamil refugees, and therefore took some pains to remain impermeable. But the arrests in Madras in June of two Indians and three Sri Lankans, one of whom enjoyed the confidence of many militant groups, on charges of spying, has come as a shock to them.

"I can't believe he could have been a Sri Lankan spy," said a Sri Lankan Tamil leader.

The man referred to is Kandasami Naidu, a 42-year-old former security officer of the Sri Lankan Minister for Rural Industrial Development S. Thondaman. Kandasami had fled to Madras along with thousands of other Sri Lankan Tamils in the wake of the 1983 anti-Tamil violence in the Island. For all that Madras could see, he was a committed supporter of the Tamil cause: did he not organise a safe conduct to TULF leader A. Amirthalingam from Jaffna to Colombo and thence to Madras in the thick of the 1983 crisis?

In Madras, the old links with Thondaman turned out to be a substantial asset for the suave "refugee", who began befriending the various militant groups. The groups, too, saw gain in this relationship.

As the police quizzed Kandasami, they came up with startling, even bizarre, confessions. He was responsible for the bomb blast, he admitted, at the house of LTTE leader A. Balasingam earlier this year. That bomb had punched a hole through the roof of the house, but killed no one. Kandasami now says that even as he was carrying out the instructions to eliminate the Tamil leader, he felt he could not do it to a fellow Tamil and therefore made sure that the bomb would not kill. Kandasami, whose links with the top echelons of the Sri Lankan intelligence have been traced, has added that his bosses were obviously not pleased that he missed the target.

The cover for these activities was perhaps afforded by the propaganda – Kandasami himself called it "parallel" – role he was made to play. At the behest of his bosses he was to use his influence to win the support of the militant groups for Ravi Jayawardene, son of President J.R. Jayawardene. The son is being sponsored by some interested quarters in a bid to ward off National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali's pretensions to succeed Jayawardene. Kandasami was told to sell to the militants the idea that Ravi Jayawardene would be "more responsive" to the Tamil cause than Athulathmudali.

For his labours, Kandasami was paid about Rs.3,000 to Rs.4,000 a month through various channels, and investigators wonder whether it was this lucre that made him turn his allegiance over to the Sri Lankan authorities. Indeed, when he first landed in Madras nearly three years ago, he seemed a firm supporter of the Tamil cause.

Kandasami's arrest and his subsequent confession must come as an embarrassment to the Sri Lankan Government. Its alleged involvement in the bomb explosions in Madras has added a new dimension to its working, the first evidence that it has taken to fighting its battle with the militants on Indian soil Till Kandasami himself came out with it, investigators had no evidence to link the blast at Balasingam's house with Sri Lankan agents.

And what of the political leader whose security officer Kandasami was from 1978 to 1983? Thondaman, of course, was quick to distance himself from any association with the man. "It is utter nonsense to say that I was involved with him," he declared in Colombo.

A Special Correspondent *in Madras*

(Courtesy of "FRONTLINE", June 28 – July 11, 1986)

Thondaman Meets Rajiv

NEW DELHI, July 25

The Sri Lanka Minister for Rural Industrial Development, Mr. S. Thondaman, today met the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and urged him to step up India's efforts to secure a settlement between the Tamils and the Sri Lanka Government.

During his 20 minute meeting, Mr. Thondaman told Mr. Gandhi that the current discussions between the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) and the Sri Lanka Government was a positive development, but everyone should be cautious that the opportunity for settlement should not be allowed to slip.

PM hopeful: Mr. Thondaman said after the meeting that the Prime Minister was "very hopeful" of the current exercise.

Appeal for serious talks

MADRAS, July 2

Five prominent citizens of Madras today said Colombo's latest proposals to solve the ethnic issue envisaged a substantive measure of devolution of power to elected provincial councils, and expressed the view that the time had come for serious discussions for a final settlement.

In a joint statement, they appealed to the political parties and groups in Sri Lanka and India to avoid rancour and bitterness and seize the opportunity to end the tragic conflict in the island.

The signatories to the statement are Mr. C. Subramaniam, Prof. K. Swaminathan, Mr. M.V. Arunachalam, Mr. Thomas Abraham, and Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi.

CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS

Col. C.J. Abeyaratne has been appointed Liaison Officer by the Co-ordinating Officer, Brigadier H.H. Rupasinga, to look into complaints made by citizens in the Jaffna district. He can be contacted at the Army camp in Palaly, or by telephone on Jaffna 23380 or 24451, or Colombo 33611.

(Saturday Review, June 15, 1986)

Tourists are not coming

Sri Lanka's Tourist Board offices in New York, Japan, Australia and Milan, have been forced to put up their shutters due to the big drop in the number of tourists visiting the Island in recent times. This drop has followed appeals made by the governments of the respective countries requesting their citizens not to venture out on tours to Sri Lanka for their own safety.

IT'S MURDER

The Jaffna Magistrate, Mr. K.P.S. Varatharajah, returned a verdict of homicide at the end of the inquest proceeding into the deaths of 30 Gurunagar fishermen who were killed off Mandaitivu on 10th June.

The Magistrate returned an open verdict in the case of the 31st deceased. He has directed the Police to conduct further inquiries and take the necessary legal steps.

Forum to promote amity

MADRAS, July 2

A group of Sri Lankan and Indian citizens have formed an organisation here to promote understanding among groups in India and Sri Lanka. The immediate objectives of the Indo-Lanka Maithri Sangam are to help resolve the present ethnic conflict, promote reconciliation among all the protagonists and resettle the Sri Lankan refugees and displaced persons in their homes, Mrs. Sarah Chanda, Sangam joint secretary, said.

Third Son also Shot Dead

Mr. Michael Gnanapragasam a Theology student attached to the Institute of Lay Training and Evangelism was shot dead reportedly by the army at Killinochi on Thursday the 19th of June. He was the third son in a family of four boys to be killed in Killinochi within 76 days.

THE CAT IS OUT OF THE BAG

At a Press Conference held on June 26th, five years after the burning of the Jaffna Public Library, no less a person than the President, Mr. Jayawardene, has blamed the police for the affair, and for alienating the entire Tamil people. By an error the President used the words "Jaffna Town Hall", but what was reduced to ashes on 1 June 1981 was the prestigious Jaffna Public Library and its collection of 97,000 books and rare manuscripts, not the Jaffna Town Hall, in which the municipal offices continued to function until 1985, when that building also got demolished, after the attack made on the Jaffna Police Station by the militants.

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Sri Lanka and abroad to join hands in bringing pressure to bear on the Government of Sri Lanka:

1. to repeal all repressive legislation which violates the democratic and civil rights of the people of Sri Lanka;

2. to release all political prisoners as a token of good faith and intention to bring about a negotiated political solution to the ethnic conflict;

3. as an interim measure, to afford to all detainees minimum rights, treating them as political prisoners.

Pakistan supplying Lanka with arms

Pakistan has supplied Sri Lanka with small arms, transport and communication equipment, India's Minister for External Affairs P. Shiv Shankar informed the Lower House of Parliament.

While some of the arms and equipment supplied by Pakistan was reported to be made in that country, some other items imported by Pakistan from other countries were then shipped to Sri Lanka, the Minister added.

Mr. Shiv Shankar further said the Government of India would welcome the creation of conditions in Sri Lanka which would enable the refugees to return to their homes in safety and with dignity. The total number of Sri Lankan refugees who had arrived up to June 9 was 127,151, he added.

However, Mr. Shankar said, conditions of peace, normalcy and tranquility would have to be created within Sri Lanka before the refugees could return.

TULF LEADER SPELLS OUT TAMIL POSITION ON TALKS

Mr. A. Amirthalingam, Secretary-General of the Tamil United Liberation Front was interviewed on Rupavahini, Sri Lanka's main TV Channel recently. Here is the text.

Q: Mr. Amirthalingam, you and the rest of the TULF politbureau are visiting Colombo after a lapse of over 20 months. What are your expectations of this visit?

A: Our efforts will be directed towards working out a solution to the problem which is vexing our people. Certain proposals have been placed before us through the Government of India. We are discussing those proposals with the government, in order to arrive at an agreement – if there is mutual give and take on the part of both the government and our side.

Q: The TULF had the opportunity to discuss with President Jayawardene the government's latest proposals to solve the ethnic problem. Take us beneath the surface of this meeting if you would?

A: I don't think I am free to give the details of the matters that we talked. Our talks yesterday were more of a preliminary nature and I should say we discussed point by point the proposals that were placed before us and we got certain elucidation and certain clarifications and also went into details. But, I think, we haven't really come to grips with the more basic problems which we intend taking up in the course of our meeting today and hereafter. In pursuance of the understanding that both the government and we had that no details of the talks should be given out, I am sorry I cannot tell you what the matters are that we discussed.

Q: But you could possibly tell us what the mood of the meeting was? You have often been saying the government has not been sincere in its efforts to solve the problem.

A: I think, it is too early to pronounce a judgement on the sincerity or otherwise of either party. We feel this is time for us to go ahead with the job we have come to attend to, without giving any subjective reactions of ours to what is happening.

Q: Let me put it this way, Mr. Amirthalingam: What would be the minimum demand you will be willing to settle for at this point of time?

A: You see, we have placed our demands in the form of certain proposals which were submitted through the Government of India in December last year. Those embody the basic matters which will satisfy the aspirations of our people. Now, the government has put forward certain proposals on its part. So we have to discuss these and arrive at an agreement if that is possible.

Q: So what do you expect the government to do, now that you have already told them what you feel? What is the next step?

A: You see, I think we have to discuss the government's proposals and our proposals and arrive at something that is acceptable to both sides – something which will satisfy the aspirations of our people and which the government thinks that it can make the rest of the country accept. Our efforts are directed towards arriving at an agreement on the basis of these proposals.

Q: Were the initial talks yesterday useful? And do you think they give some hope for the future?

A: I think the talks were quite useful. And I should say we had a very free and frank exchange of views. So the very fact that we have agreed to continue the meeting shows that both sides realize the necessity to continue with this process till we arrive at a solution.

Q: Before arriving in Colombo, Mr. Amirthalingam, you said you'll go to Colombo and decide whether you will take part in the PPC or not. Now have you decided whether you will take part?

A: You see, our decision not to participate in the PPC stands. We have not had any occasion to change it. We feel that our main discussions have to be with the government. But if, as the talks progress, we feel that talks with the other parties will be helpful we will certainly contact each of the other parties individually and talk to them. That is what we are planning to do.

Q: But why will you not participate in the PPC. It would appear to me that it's a good opportunity to get across your views to the rest of the parties?

A: You see, I don't think we can negotiate in public. You see in public, when we start talking, each side is out to strike postures for the consumption of the public. I think camera discussions are much more useful to work out solutions than public discussions. That was our experience in the APC in 1984 which failed because each side was trying, each group was trying to orchestrate some point of view of its own which it wanted to get into record and which it wanted to be placed before the people for their own future political purposes.

Q: This time too the SLFP and MEP appear as though they are not going to participate in the PPC. How do you react to this?

A: I think with their refusal to participate, the PPC has failed to serve the main purposes it set out to serve because the main opposition party is out of it. So efforts have to be made to win them over to the line of thinking of the others or to accept any solutions that may be agreed with the Government after we agree among ourselves.

Q: Will you talk to Mrs. Bandaranaike about this?

A: We will certainly do that.

Q: When?

A: In the course of our stay here as the talks with the Government progress, we will definitely talk to her and also with the other parties which are in the PPC.

Q: How long do you intend at the moment to stay in Colombo?

A: We haven't fixed any time limit. It depends on how the talks progress and it depends on whether our continued stay can be useful. We have no other work except the work of our people. So we are willing to devote any time, but of course that doesn't mean that this can get protracted indefinitely into months and years. But a week or two should be enough if there is goodwill on both sides. So, certainly we intend to explore the possibilities of doing it, in view of the suffering that the people are undergoing.

Q: I also heard that you had ideas of visiting the North and the East.

A: We have not yet fixed up any such program because our main work is here at the moment, holding consultations with ourselves, discussions with the government and meeting groups and deputations that are coming to meet us from the Northern and Eastern Provinces. And travelling to the North is so difficult at the moment, it may involve spending several days in the process. so if and when we can spare the time, we may be able to do that.

Q: Going into a different aspect of this whole problem, how would you describe your present relationship with the separatist terrorists?

A: I don't want to describe them as separatist terrorists. They are youths who have dedicated themselves to a cause. I should say we have been talking to them before we came here. All the leaders of the five major militant groups have had discussions with us because we feel that we should try and take them along with us if any agreement has to be implemented. Otherwise the process of implementation will become difficult. Besides, they too have played a major role in this conflict. One cannot brush them aside and think that we can solve the problem. I am sure the Government is quite alive to that aspect of it and it is that realisation that made them start talking to them directly at Thimpu last year. So we are also now in a position to talk to them and put across to them our ideas on how a solution should be worked out.

Q: The impressions created in Colombo and in other areas sometimes is that the terrorists are telling you what to do and that you have no real say over them. Is that not correct?

A: I don't think that is correct at all. We have our own thinking on the matter. We act according to what we think is right but we feel that they are a part of the Tamil people – and an important part at that – whom we are trying to serve, whose problems we are seeking to solve – and in the process they also have to be associated with us.

Q: Take, for instance, the fact that you have been a person in the democratic tradition most of your life. Now all this violence that is taking place – really by the Tamils – are you not in a position as Secretary-General of the TULF to influence them to stop the violence.

A: You see, this is violence on both sides. I am sure you will not be able to carry in your program my reply. My reply will be that this violence is the reaction to the violence of the armed forces. If the armed forces stop their violence, I am sure their violence will also come to a stop. You see, they are now only trying to prevent the armed forces from moving out of their camps and attacking people and that is why they are regarded as

saviours of the people in the areas there they are. It is an absolutely wrong thing to say that there is only one sided violence.

Q: What about the AirLanka bomb blast, the CTO blast?

A: Of course, those are things – the attacks on civilian targets and killing of civilians – no one can justify. Civilians are being killed on both sides. There are Tamil civilians, innocent people who are being killed by the armed forces and so-called Home Guards. Similarly, the militants also have been killing civilians on the Sinhala side. We totally deplore the killing of innocent civilians by whomsoever it may be done and we have done it in public even after the bomb blast at Katunayake.

Q: Mr. Amirthalingam, you have gone on record as saying the separatists neither approved nor disapproved of your talks with the government. Now would this also mean that you would settle for a political solution to the Tamil problem irrespective and regardless of what the militants think?

A: If a worthwhile solution is worked out we are confident that it will be accepted by the vast majority of the people. And the militant leaders themselves have now made public statements that if a solution acceptable to the people is worked out, they will not stand in the way. So that I am confident that we will be able to have the tacit support at least of the vast majority of the people and even the militants. But, if of course, certain fringe elements oppose it, we will have to go ahead implementing it.

Q: With a political solution?

A: Yes.

Q: But can you have a lasting solution if there is a certain militant faction?

A: You see, you cannot have 100 per cent consensus on any matter. It depends on what solution we work out. That is what we are trying to do. If it is something which reasonably satisfies the aspirations of the long suffering Tamil people, I am sure the vast majority of militants will fall in line and we will be able to implement it, particularly with ideas and help the whole process. It should be possible to get the support of the militants also in this matter.

Q: All in all, Mr. Amirthalingam, looking back over the past six, seven years during which you have been launching this struggle for Eelam, do you think at some point, do you ever feel that the sacrifices which had to be made was not worth the goal for what you'd rather not have done at all.

A: I have no regrets at all over what has happened, we were driven to this stand that we had to pay. You know in 1956 when the Sinhala Only Act was passed there were demands for separation put forward by people like Mr. Suntharalingam. We opposed it, fought against it and defeated them.

But twenty years of our effort to workout a peaceful solution on the lines of a measure of autonomy by pacts like the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact, the Dudley Senanayake-Chelvanayakam Pact and various agreements and understandings that we had come to with successive governments led us no where.

On the contrary, we were treated to repeated problems. Violence was unleashed on our people and it was those that drew us to take the stand that we will have to separate.

But even after we decided and got a mandate from our people on that demand, from the beginning in Parliament we had indicated that if a reasonable alternative was offered by the government we were willing to take it. When the District Councils were offered, not as an alternative to our demand but as a measure of decentralisation which we thought may help to ease the situation, we accepted that in the face of opposition by sections of our own party, of our own youth.

But the government itself has now accepted that the DDCs had totally failed, that neither power nor funds were transferred to the DDCs and that institution has failed to serve the purpose for which it was established. So it is in that context that we had to go ahead with our demands.

Even in 1983, after the holocaust, after we were excluded from Parliament by the Sixth amendment, when India suggested negotiations, we readily consented and for one whole year at the All-Party Conference, we negotiated. Nothing came out of it. So we are back here trying to negotiate. So one has to realise the compulsions, the necessities that drove us to take the stand that we had taken.

The Tamil people never wanted a division of the country till they were driven by repeated discriminations and failure of the negotiating process, failure of the democratic process, failure of constitutional methods. They were driven to this demand and the emergence of violence was the result, was the reaction to the repeated violence that was unleashed on the Tamil people in 1956, 1958, 1961, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983. Ever a worm turns and one cannot be surprised that the youth reacted in that way.

Q: But looking at it right now, your presence in Colombo today, you are saying that it is time to talk, to negotiate. Is this an indication that things are going beyond the point you expected?

A: No. We feel that we are always for talking and settling the matter and even today we feel that in the interests of all sections of the people of the country, in the interests of the Tamil people, in the interests of the Sinhala people, in the interests of our common country we should work out a peaceful solution. That has been our feeling always and our efforts failed in the past. We are hoping that we may succeed now.

Q: On the contrary, people in this country including Tamils at times perceive that you and the TULF as a group had distanced from the base in Jaffna and have thereby lost the political legitimacy. Already, I am told that there are demonstrations in Jaffna about your visit to Colombo. Mr. Amirthalingam, do you still feel that you have the support of the majority of the Tamil people of the country?

A: I think that the vast majority of the Tamil people still look up to the TULF to work out a solution to alleviate their suffering to win their rights and freedom. There is no doubt there are young men who have sacrificed, who feel that we have no more role to play. Whether we have a role or not, we feel we have a duty by the people who placed their confidence in us and it is in the performance of that duty that we have come here to talk. We don't expect anything for ourselves but we want to see that the suffering of our people is removed and they are able to live in security, with dignity, honour and freedom in their territories.

Q: The Indian Government has expressed the view that the present proposals are a sound basis for negotiations. Now, if you were to dismiss and reject the proposals presented by the government outright, do you not stand the risk of losing the hospitality of the Indian Government which you have enjoyed for the past couple of years?

A: I don't think so. The Indian Government has merely indicated that they regard these proposals as a reasonable basis for starting discussions. I don't think they will go to the extent of applying any greater pressure on us to accept anything. That freedom, we have. The decision is ours whether to negotiate and what to accept as a reasonable solution to the problem of our people. Having discussed the matter fully with the Indian Government even before we come to Colombo, I haven't the slightest doubt that India will apply any such pressure on the Tamil groups or the parties to accept something which they feel they cannot accept.

Q: What about the terrorist groups? Will you say the same for them?

A: Well, I think the Indian Government is talking to them at the moment. They are in New Delhi and they are discussing matters with the Government of India and I am sure the Indian Government will tell them what they think about it, will listen to what they have to say and will give them advice if necessary. But I don't think they will apply any pressure.

Q: Either way?

A: Yes.

Q: Finally, Mr. Amirthalingam, shortly after arriving in Colombo two days ago you told Rupavahini that it was necessary to break the deadlock and explore possibilities for lasting peace. How much closer are we to that objective today and what are the prospects of a settlement in the not too distant future?

A: I think the talks we have had so far have been very useful, have been very full and I think if we continue on these lines, we can reasonably expect to arrive at some solution.

Q: How soon?

A: That I am not able to say because the process of negotiations sometimes gets protracted. There are certain matters of a very fundamental nature from our point of view. I don't want to get into those in public at the moment which we have to discuss at some length with the government if we have to arrive at an agreement. So, I cannot say how soon but I think in a couple of weeks or so we ought to be able to terminate our negotiations.

Q: So, what you have come here for is to really sit down and thrash it out, finish it.

A: Yes we do certainly realize the urgency of working out a solution. People have suffered for three years and . . .

Q: On both sides?

A: On both sides and the country has suffered quite a lot. We realise that and so we feel that the same realisation should be there on the part of the others, the other political parties – both Government and Opposition – and all should co-operate to work out a solution.

Q: Mr. Amirthalingam, we wish you good luck. Thank you.

A: Thank you.

DIARY OF INCIDENTS

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APRIL 11

● In the East, 2 soldiers killed and 6 injured in an LTTE attack on an army foot patrol at Kattaiparichchan in Mutur district.
● 7 Buddhist priests abducted while fasting in Colombo yesterday found dropped at different places outside the city.
● Residents living near temporary army camp at Omanthai vacate homes in fear.
● In Colombo, Sinhala newspaper "Divayina" carries report quoting "official" sources that Jaffna's Palaly airport will be made an international airport with U.S. and British aid, and that the runways will be extended to the Myliddy coast to facilitate movement of all three forces – Air Force, Navy and Army. The eventual objective, according to the report, is to carve out the northern fringe of the peninsula into a "security operations zone".
● In search operations by armed forces now camping at govt. school in Triyai, north of Trincomalee, one Tamil youth Subramaniam Rajaratnam was killed and another, Velu Selliah injured. Incidents occurred on April 10.

APRIL 12

● Administrator of the Sankilian refugee centre in Jaffna Dr. Sasitharan reported to be arrested by Naval personnel while going on a boat with refugees, and produced at Trincomalee Police station.
● Hindu temple at Punanai on the Batticaloa-Polonnaruwa road near the army camp is now used by STF as a check post.
● Timekeeper at Batticaloa railway station, Johnpulle, father of 5 children, shot dead at his home by an unknown youth.
● In an island-wide test held for selection as Police Sergeants, only three Tamils are selected as against 262 non-Tamils. The selected Tamils are N.T. Namasivayam, V. Pakianathan and Kulathilakarajah. (Ealamurasu)

APRIL 13

● Men of the armed forces in civils surround a house yesterday at Thiruvaiyaru 2nd culvert in Kilinochchi district and take away nearly one hundred bags of paddy to the army camp.
● Abandoned houses of residents in Valalai, Thampalai close to Thondamannaru army camp are set on fire by black uniformed armed forces; at Palaly, where also residents had been forced to flee and abandon their homes, houses are destroyed and in some places produce-bearing trees are cut down to make way for temporary roads to facilitate movements of armoured cars and army vehicles.
● A young Tamil woman Vanaja Varnakulanathan (21) of Mutur, who was allegedly tortured by men of the armed forces is sent to Jaffna hospital for emergy treatment by Trincomalee Citizens Committee.
● A gang of about 30 armed, masked men rob the house and business premises of trader T.A. Apputhurai at Kankesanturai, and get away with jewellery and items worth several lakhs. Apputhurai who was a victim of the anti-Tamil riots in Colombo in July '83, had therafter set up business in Jaffna.

APRIL 14

● Sinhala and Tamil New Year. The day passes without any major incidents being reported barring a half-hour helicopter strafing in Myliddy Palaly areas.
● In Moratuwa, suburb of Colombo, Officer-in-charge of Police Station, Inspector Earl Peiris is shot dead by a Sergeant working under him.

APRIL 15

● ● Farmer Sinniah Nandakumar (32) who went to Nilaveli from his home village Kumburupitiya to buy fertiliser on the 13th and reportedly "arrested" by armed forces on that day, found dead with gunshot injuries. His body was brought to Trincomalee hospital.
● Decomposed body discovered in jungle area at Mankulam identified as that of Mathiaparanam Jegan (22), an employee of an eating house, who had been missing for the past three days following a "search" operation by army personnel.
● Three soldiers killed and four others injured in a landmine explosion at Niyankulam in Batticaloa near the Polonnaruwa district border. Killed soldiers were Lance Corporal Anwerdeen, Lance Corporal Sahabandu and Pvt. J.L. Panditharatne.
● Y.P. Arumainayagam of Poonakari "executed" as an army informer and his body tied to a lamp post.
● Army men who had set up camp at Nainativu engage local civilian going on a boat to Kurikadduvan to buy food and provisions for them. At Kurikadduvan the money was robbed at gunpoint, and on reporting back the civilians and the boat are detained by army personnel.

APRIL 16

● For 27 days now – since March 21 – no poojas or religious rites held at the Sellasannathy Hindu temple. Smell of rotting corpses in temple vicinity. Temple priests, Citizens Committee complain to Jaffna G.A. and ask for shifting of army camp away from the temple.
● Helicopter strafing again, in the north. Villages affected: Mallakam, Tellipallai, Kadduvan and Kurumbacitty. Several persons injured, a leading school, Union College and several houses damaged.
● S. Ravindrarajah (23) of Point Pedro an LTTE fighter killed, hit by a shell from the Point Pedro army camp.
● Homes of Selliah Balasubramaniam and Nallathamby Ratnasabapathy at Kachcheri-Nallur Road, Jaffna, robbed by armed gang, and over Rs. 4 lakhs worth jewellery and cash taken away.
● In Trincomalee district, 60 Tamil families living near the 3rd Mile army check post at Nilaveli forced to abandon their homes. With refugee camps full, they have now become vagrants. Another 1,000 families, residents of Chelvanayakapuram Colony are under army orders to leave.
● Jungle at Omanthai in the mainland north is being set on fire, and trees and vegetation destroyed by army men who have set up camp in the area.

APRIL 17

● Six persons killed in Jaffna following army offensives from two army camps – the Dutch Fort and Navatkuli, and over a dozen injured. The killed are, a 4-year old child and a youth, Arudpiragasam (23), both killed by army shells in their homes, at Navatkuli, 2 soldiers, Karunaratne (30) of Kurunegala and Abhayasiri (28) of Mirigama, and two LTTE militants, Lt. Gerry (S. Yogarasa) and Murali (N. Kamalanathan) both of Chavakachcheri, who were killed in action at Navatkuli. Three other soldiers, Cyril Perera (31) of Negombo, Weerasinghe (35) of Kelaniya and Gamini Appuhamy of Polgahawela believed critically injured.
● An apparently drunken man, a Sinhalese, Wijeyaratne Douglas who walked with a gun into the Mudalikulam Tamil refugee camp in Trinco district, shouting that all Tamils should be killed and began firing at random and who was overpowered by his own wife who had rushed behind him, is produced before Tinco Additional magistrate M.K. Sellarajah. He is remanded until April 28.
● Helicopter strafing of Kadduvan, Myliddy and Kurumbacitty areas, continue.
● Unknown persons set fire to Poonakari Maha Vidyalayam. School records and part of the buildings destroyed.

APRIL 18

● 7 Air Force personnel and 2 civilians killed in landmine explosion on the Trincomalee-Anuradhapura road, and another two airmen seriously injured. The party was travelling in a truck and a jeep from the Morawewa Air Force camp to Anuradhapura for supplies. The dead were 4 leading aircraftsmen and 3 Corporals. The LTTE which set off the explosion estimates the death toll as 23. Elsewhere in the East, Sub Inspector of Police Kurunbalapitiya was killed at Pottuvil, when a hand grenade was flung at the jeep in which he was travelling.
● Eyewitnesses say a youth estimated to be around 22 years old who was cycling from the direction of Kaithady towards Jaffna, wearing a blue shirt and white sarong, was stopped by army men, tied to a tree opposite the camp and beaten repeatedly with rifle butts and kicked with booted feet. After some time when he seemed unconscious, they were seen sprinkling water on him and feeling his pulse. He was seen being untied and dragged inside the camp.
● Armed gang of 15 hold up 8 passing vehicles including a govt. bus, at Miyankulam in Batticaloa district and rob all passengers.

APRIL 19

● Three women and a man were killed and their bodies displayed opposite the Senaiyur refugee camp at Kaddaiparichchan in Mutur district. A placard near the bodies read: This is the fate that awaits those who give information about freedom fighters to the armed forces.
● Kandiah Rasadurai of Chettiar Madam, Araly, complains in a newspaper advertisement (Eelanadu) that an armed gang of youths had robbed his home and had taken away not only cash, jewellery and TV, but also air tickets, passports, identity cards of his four grown-up daughters whom he had planned to send to Malaysia. He appeals to the "good" militant groups to help him recover at least his daughters' documents, without which his daughters would face a bleak future.
● Hotel Ashok in Jaffna and a restaurant in the bazaar area Amuthasurabi hotel, were both damaged partially by shelling from the Dutch Fort army camp. Over Rs. 1 lakh damage was caused to these two buildings as well as others.
● Another Air Force man injured in the Morawewa landmine explosion succumbs to his injuries at the General Hospital, Colombo.
● It is estimated that there are 55,000 Tamil refugee in the Jaffna peninsula, comprising 16,000 families, 5,000 of whom are in camps and others outside camps.

APRIL 20

● Kantalai reservoir in the Eastern province burst its bund at dawn this morning, leaving at least 25 dead and rendering at least 30,000 persons homeless. Waters inundate vast areas including some 35 villages and 21,500 acres of paddy and sugarcane. Both road and rail links between Trinco and Colombo cut off. Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali rules out sabotage. Emergency refugee camps set up.
● At Point Pedro, four soldiers and 2 LTTE militants killed in an encounter. Heavy shelling from the sea follows, making people flee inwards.
● In Vavuniya, shops close in protest against repeated robberies.
● In Matale, in the plantation area, a former Mayor, a Tamil, S. Thambirajah is killed and his wife critically injured when hand grenades were flung at their home by unknown persons.

DIARY OF INCIDENTS

APRIL 21

● A day of unmitigated terror and tragedy at northern coastal town of Thondamannaru, 8 soldiers killed and several others injured, the temple chariot and temple buildings destroyed by aerial fire, an officiating Brahmin priest and his assistant stripped by army men and killed, and several civilians feared dead or injured. The day of tragedy began at dawn around 5 a.m. when LTTE guerillas spotted an army unit from the Thondamannaru camp moving stealthily in the direction of the temple. LTTE guerillas mounted an offensive at the moving column, encircling them in 3 directions, killing at least 8, injuring several more and forcing them back into the army camp. A day-long reprisal followed. While a plane flew low over the area, and was challenged by rocket fire, a black helicopter from Palaly began strafing the temple vicinity, while the army men from the camp kept shelling continuously. In the evening around 6 p.m. 14 bombs were dropped in the temple area, destroying the chariot built recently at great expense with public donations. Other temple buildings also damaged. Elsewhere in nearby areas helicopters began strafing at all moving vehicles. A team of high-ranking army officials reported to have flown from Colombo late in the evening to investigate the day's happenings.

● At Kilinochchi, a large army convoy in 15 armoured cars and trucks move in a show of strength firing in the air, causing panic in several villages.

● About 15 police commandos admitted to Valaichchenai hospital in the East, with minor injuries following a surprise attack on them by Tamil militants in a place called "Pulipainthakal". One Commando who sustained serious injuries was flown to Colombo.

● Batticaloa-Amparai Citizens Committee to submit the names and details of 341 persons known to have "disappeared" after being arrested by armed forces, to the military Co-ordinating officer.

APRIL 22

● Following the day-long incidents at Thondamannaru yesterday, the entire area seems denuded of human population. In Colombo government authorities accuse Tamil militants of having used the temple as a cover to attack the armed forces and also accuse the militants of having set fire to the chariot! A lone helicopter flies low in the area today, and thereafter strafes every moving vehicle in the nearby villages. Meanwhile concern was expressed by military authorities in Colombo that the body of one soldier who was killed was not recovered.

● Bodies of two Sinhalese civilians among the four who were kidnapped at Kinniya near Trinco, discovered with gunshot injuries.

● The unknown youth who was beaten up by army men opposite the army camp at Navatkuli on the 18th has now been identified as 23-year old Vadivelu Sinnathurai of Madduvil. But the Navatkuli authorities deny knowledge of the youth.

APRIL 23

● Colombo and Anuradhapura, 120 miles apart, rocked by two bombs. 9 persons killed in Anuradhapura, and in Colombo nine escape with injuries. A bomb suspected to have been concealed in a petrol bowser from Jaffna rips through the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's oil storage facility at Anuradhapura and sets off a major fire, blowing up two more petrol bowsers and causing extensive damage to the complex. The bomb in Colombo was in an unclaimed travelling bag in a private bus and exploded when a hasty policeman meddles with it at the Wellawatte police station.

● Following the Anuradhapura explosion, thugs set upon several lorries and buses plying between Jaffna and Colombo, causing a complete stoppage of road transport between north and south.

● In the north, Brigadier Rupasinghe is persuaded to see for himself the massive destruction suffered by the venerated Hindu shrine of Sellasannathy. The Brigadier who came by helicopter to the army camp opposite, is met by G.A., Jaffna who had motored there with Citizens Committee members. Brigadier sees the temple's 40-foot wooden decorative chariot built with the help of Indian sculptors at a cost of Rs. 45 lakhs now a large mound of ash; in the temple outer courtyard he sees two human skeletons; the large temple prayer bell fallen from the belfry and lying scattered in pieces. The temple area which used to throb with human activity is now a picture of desolation.

● In yesterday's "search operation" at Visvamadu, armed forces kill Narayanasamy Ravindran (21) and Joseph Gunaseelan (20), both employed at a dairy outlet at Visvamadu junction, bomb and destroy a building on the main road near Chundikulam junction. A helicopter and plane provide aerial cover.

● In a "search operation" involving over a thousand soldiers and over five villages in Amparai district, 58 Tamils were taken away on a "head nodding signal" by a masked person.

APRIL 24

● Eelam Revolutionary Organisation (EROS) through its spokesman V. Balakumar claims responsibility for the blast at the State-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation storage facility at Anuradhapura yesterday.

● A Tamil lawyer Thamu Kanagasingam and another Tamil who had come to board a train at Anuradhapura station were set upon by thugs in the station premises and were admitted to hospital in an unconscious state.

● Protest procession in Jaffna against the kidnapping 20 days earlier and holding to ransom of Mascons Director Ganeshan by unidentified militant group.

● In the course of a "search operation" in Mandur in Batticaloa district, armed forces rob two Hindu temples, one of them the ancient and celebrated Mandur Kandasamy Temple. Booted soldiers break open the sanctum sanctorum into which even the Hindu worshippers are not admitted, rob several lakhs worth gold ornaments break open the temple till, assault the temple priests and terrorise the local population. Urgent protest telegrams sent to Minister of Hindu Affairs in the govt. Chelliah Rajadurai.

● A Hindu monitoring group, set up in Nallur, Jaffna, is now engaged in collecting all data relating to destruction of Hindu temples, robbing of temples and acts of sacrilege both by Sinhala mobs during the '77 riots as well as by armed forces since then.

APRIL 25

● Prof. K. Sivathamby of the Valvettiturai Citizens Committee takes strong objection to a major subversion of truth in the Govt. T.V. – the Rupavahini, involving the incidents at Sellasannathy Temple. In a strongly worded statement made to the G.A. Jaffna, in whose presence Brigadier Rupasinghe had inspected the damage to temple property, Prof. Sivathamby expresses shock how the burnt chariot, the splintered temple bell, the burnt roof had all been suppressed in the film. Instead, an impression was sought to be created that the temple priest was not killed by showing Balendra Iyer when in fact it was the senior priest Sinniah Kurukkal and his assistant who were killed. The Rupavahini feature was a deliberate falsification of the truth, Mr. Sivathamby says. Many other TV viewers also express anger.

● 16 Tamils and 4 Sinhalese have been taken into custody in connection with the bomb explosion at Anuradhapura.

● Several fishing boats beached off Mathagal and Senthankulam on the northern coast are damaged by helicopter fire.

● Four armed unknown persons rob the Bank of Ceylon, Vavuniya of Rs. 1 lakh and nine thousand. Despite resistance offered by bank security and other staff, the robbers get away with the loot.

● Colombo newspaper **"SUN"** says 14 "terrorists" were killed in raids by armed forces in jungle hideouts in Batticaloa district.

APRIL 26

● Thondamannaru areas again subject to helicopter attacks.

● In Batticaloa, one of the main road bridges, the Paddiruppu road bridge, is blasted by a bomb. Explosion heard for 20 miles around, say reports. About 125 villages in Paddiruppu cut off from direct access as a result.

● Kaththankudy Multi-purpose co-operative store robbed of Rs. 2½ lakhs worth goods by armed gang. Kaththankudy is a Muslim majority area and it was only recently 75 Home Guards were appointed for this area from local residents.

● Continuous shelling from morning till noon from the Pt. Pedro army camp. No casualties. The objective appears to have been to destroy buildings in the neighbourhood.

● Tamil constable Thurairajah attached to Alutgama police station dies of gunshot injuries at Alutgama. No details available.

● Tellipallai residents angry over night robbery at the home of Cement Factory engineer S. Thevaratnam who lives next to the Post Office. Gang of about 20 armed youths force their way into house, assault the engineer, abuse his wife and engage in brutal behaviour before taking away cash and jewellery. Residents put up road blocks and stage a protest. Mr. Thevaratnam's neighbour's house also robbed at the same time.

APRIL 27

● LTTE lose six of their guerrillas at sea, including Capt. Aruna, an Eastern Province commander, of the Pt. Pedro coast, when a naval patrol blew up the fibreglass boat in which they were travelling. This news comes on the heels of another incident three days ago – on the 24th – when 10 TELO fighters were reported to have been killed similarly – on the sea. Govt. claims after today's incident that Navy men were able to recover 6 G3 rifles, and 2 Browning mounted machine guns wrapped in cellophane paper, along with medicines and flares. Another Jaffna report puts the boat casualties at 13.

● The body of P. Ravi (29) who was believed killed by naval fire brought to Tellipallai Govt. hospital.

● A heart patient A. Thurairasa (45) of Thambachetty collapses and dies following heavy shelling from Pt. Pedro army camp, and another person C. Nadesu (67) admitted to Manthikai hospital with stomach injuries caused by a shell.

● Off Colombo, 30 soldiers seriously injured when the truck in which 40 of them were travelling collided with a fast-moving passenger bus and turned turtle. The incident happened yesterday.

● Puliampokkanai, a village 7 miles from Paranthan in the Tamil populated mainland, bombed. Casualties not known, but several houses badly damaged.

● 30 Sinhalese will be charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act for being in league with "northern terrorists", says Colombo newspaper "SUN".

APRIL 28

● Demonstration of public grief in Jaffna over the loss of Tamil militants at sea. All Jaffna goes into mourning. Vehicles fly black flags, traditional funeral observances are seen both in urban as well as remote rural areas.

● A clash at sea around 2.30 in the early hours of the morning reported off Talaimannar, following confrontation between a naval boat and two other unidentified country boats. Loss of lives on

Continued on page 14

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both sides might have occurred, but no details known.

● 34 men who tried to cross over to India as refugees arrested at sea by naval personnel, and detained at the Palaly army camp for interrogation.

● A sergeant of the Special Task Force W.A. Wijeratne (27) of Dompe killed and several other STF men believed critically injured in a direct confrontation with Tamil militants near Palugamam in Batticaloa. Reporting the same incident, the Govt. owned "Daily News" says: "Five terrorists were killed and 15 others arrested (all members of the LTTE) in an engagement between the terrorists and Special Task Force men at Wellaweli in the Batticaloa district", the National Security Ministry said. It said that Police Sergeant Wijeratne who recently escaped with minor injuries in a landmine explosion was killed and another constable injured . . .

● Jaffna Trader's Association appeals for the release of 4 of their members who were kidnapped, presumably for ransom, over the past few days.

● Two armed robberies reported in Jaffna within 2 days: at the home of sculptor N. Somasundaram at Kondavil West, yesterday, and at the residence of Kanagalingam of 3rd Cross St., the day before.

APRIL 29

● As Jaffna goes into mourning for the second day for 23 militants killed at sea by govt. forces, major fighting erupts between the two groups on land, resulting in heavier casualities. LTTE-TELO clashes reported simultaneously in several places, in the afternoon – Ariyalai, Alaveddy, Kadduvan, Vaddukoddai, Manipay, Kopay, Myliddy, Navanthurai, Mirusuvil . . . Bombs, submachine guns, grenades are used, while the number of casualties among the militants are not known, at least 7 civilians are reported killed in the crossfire. Although details are not known, it is believed that TELO suffer very heavy casualties. While the clashes were taking place in the Irupalai, Kaddaipirai and Kalviankadu areas, Govt. helicopters add to the public panic by strafing the areas.

● 2 Policemen, M. Dhanapala and D.M.B. Bandula Somaratne and an army private M.A. Hemanthalal are killed on the spot, four others injured critically and several others injured when the private bus in which a combined Army-Police patrol were travelling hit a landmine at Kattaiparichchan near Trincomalee.

● Two Tamil passers-by at Vantharamoolai in Batticaloa who were commanded at gun point by army commandos to dig a specified spot on the road are killed instantaneously when a mine exploded.

APRIL 30

● In Batticaloa, mothers and wives of 175 youths, who disappeared after arrest by armed forces, lead protest procession and present petition to Govt. Agent, Batticaloa, Mr. M. Anthonimuthu demanding to know the where-abouts of their children and husbands. Among those missing is a Sinhala youth from Kiran by the name of Lokkubanda Wimaladasa.

● For no apparent provocation, villages of Mallakam, Erlalai and Chunnakam heavily strafed by helicopter gunships.

● Strafing continues at Kalviankadu in the afternoon and in the night. This is the first time that the city came under air attack at night.

● Troops from Thondamannaru Camp and Palaly camp march out on foot from the respective camps and meet at Valalai. At Valalai, they open fire at those working in fields killing a child and injuring Subramaniam Neminathan (25) and Jayaratnam Sivakumar (13). Sebamalai Raveendran (28) seriously injured in the firing dies at the Govt. Hospital, Tellipallai.

● In Batticaloa, Magistrate Janab M. Kariapper issues open warrant on A.S. Badurdeen, Officer-in-charge, Home Guards, absconding in a case of assault on the principal of a school at Kathankudi.

● Security forces out on 'search operations'

Continued from page 13

shoot and kill 17 persons who had returned to their homes at Mutur, Thiriyayi from the Batticaloa refugee camps.

● Gun shots from Palaly Army camp kill A. Sebamalai of Sillalai a fishmonger proceeding along Palaly road on his push bicycle.

MAY 1

● In Trincomalee, 6 navy personnel injured when their vehicle was attacked with grenades. Heavy firing by navy personnel follows. A civilian, Sinnathamby Thanaratnam dies of gun shot injuries. A jeep coming along the road at the time of the grenade attack, failing to stop when ordered, fired at and driver Premadasa, a Sinhalese, dies on the spot. Assistant Govt. Agent of Seruvila Mr. W. Warnasooriya who was in the jeep injured.

● Camp authorities at Kondaivedduvan Army camp refuse permission to parents and wives to see their children and husbands detained there. They were told that the detainees, except a mute, would be transferred to Boosa detention camp where they could meet them.

● Navy personnel, in a truck, attack those waiting in front of the Trincomalee post office and seriously injure them. They also enter shops in the area and cause wanton damage.

● Armed forces passing through Kanesapuram street in Kilinochchi in 4 armoured cars fire indiscriminately killing one person. Also arrest three youths. Those working in the fields flee for shelter. Bulls tethered to the ploughs run amok.

● Soldiers at Valvettiturai army camp attempt to come out through the southern end, but withdraw when militants launch attack with hand grenades.

● Security forces arrest a member of the Trincomalee Hindu youth organization, Mr. Krishnapillai Uthayachandran (25).

MAY 2

● Helicopter gunships strafe Vayavilan, Kurumbacitty north and Kadduvan villages after an interval of 4 days.

● At Aryampathi, Batticaloa, members of the public undertake a day long fast urging unity of Muslims and Tamils.

● Army open a new check post at Vavuniya Railway Station Road. Members of the public using this road subject to security checks.

● Urgent surgical operations put off at Batticaloa Hospital consequent to the theft of 41 gas cylinders.

● Brigadier Hubert Rubasinghe, Army Co-ordination Officer, Northern Region, refuses release of 6 fishermen arrested in the seas off Vadamarachchi coast and detained in the Palaly camp, when approached by the Pt. Pedro Citizen's Committee. Insists that the Grama Sevaka Officer of the area where the detainee lives should come to the camp and give evidence as to the innocence of the suspects. Failure he said would result in the suspects being transferred to the Boosa detention camp.

MAY 3

● In Colombo, bomb explodes ripping apart an Air Lanka Tristar plane killing at least 20 and injuring more than 41 just before the aircraft capital of Male with 128 passengers. The Tristar "City of Colombo" had arrived at the Airport only 55 minutes earlier from London Gatwick Airport on a flight delayed in Dubai by 1 hour. The ground crew readied the aircraft for its next journey. It was posted on the apron overlooking the terminal building. The crew finished loading the cargo hold and the aircraft was ready for take off when the explosion occurred.

● In Karaithivu, Kalmunai, a gang in civils enters the house of Kulanthaivelu of 3rd division, Karaithivu, kidnap him and his wife after blindfolding them. The house is then set on fire. It is understood that one of his children is under detention having been arrested sometime back.

MAY 4

● Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam deny involvement in and condemn bomb blast aboard the Air Lanka plane at Katunayake Airport. Eelam National Liberation Front comprising EPRLF, EROS and TELO also disclaim responsibility on behalf of its constituent members. Minister for National Security says in Colombo that the bomb blast was timed to thwart Indian peace efforts and embarass Sri Lanka Govt.

● In Eravur, soldiers out on 'search operation' fire indiscriminately killing 3 civilians, a farmer and 2 labourers.

● Co-ordinating officer, Batticaloa, informs Batticaloa Citizens' Committee that 40 of the 51 persons arrested in Mandur and detained at Kondaikadduwan camp are being transferred to the Boosa detention camp and that the rest are being kept back for further investigations. He also informs that names of those arrested will be furnished.

● Mr. Ganesan, General Manager of Asbestos factory at Eevinai kidnapped by unknown persons a month back is released.

● Navy shelling at night at Kayts. Many buildings damaged. Rev. S.F. Kirubanandam Parish Priest of the church escapes as he was in the rear portion of his residence, the front of which was damaged.

MAY 5

● A helicopter gunship strafes Mallakam, Tellipallai, Ampanai villages about 12.30 p.m. causing damage to 2 mini buses, a "Cool Bar" and several roof-tops of houses at Ampanai. School children returning from schools, re-opened after vacation, stampede and run for shelter. No casualties.

● More than 15 vehicles stated to have been captured by LTTE during raids on TELO camps in various parts of the peninsula in the past few days, returned to the owners on identification. These were displayed at Windsor and Aryakulam junctions for inspection.

● Special Task Force barricade Akkaraipattu village in the morning and arrest a large number of persons about to leave home for work and at bus stops. It is believed that a number of Govt. servants would also have been arrested. Previously too Akkaraipattu village had been cordoned and several persons including Govt. servants were arrested and a number released later.

MAY 6

● Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO) leader Sri Sabaratnam killed at Kondavil Jaffna, in the course of the on going LTTE offensive against TELO. This was announced over loud speakers in Kondavil, Urumpirai areas. Since the confrontation began between the two groups in the peninsula Sri Sabaratnam and his close associates were in hiding. Their camps in various parts of Jaffna were destroyed, many killed during the attacks, and many others had surrendered.

● Armed youths shoot and kill 4 persons at Kinniya. Eleven others receive injuries. 6 of those seriously injured removed to Anuradhapura for treatment while others admitted to Trincomalee hospital for attention. It is understood that this was in retaliation to the Kinniya Home Guards arresting 2 militants and handing them over to the police. Arrested youths are stated to have taken cyanide and committed suicide. The Home Guards concerned were ordered to surrender within a specified time limit warning that those who shelter them will be attacked if the Home Guards failed to surrender. The attack took place consequent to the failure of the Home Guards not surrendering by the specified time. A few shops were bomb blasted during the attack. Immediately following, the Tamil village of Alankerny was shelled by the navy.

● 4 trucks brought by sea in a big cargo vessel unloaded at the Kankesanthurai army camp harbour and taken to the Palaly army camp in the afternoon itself. It is to be mentioned that this is the first time that vehicles were got down by sea.

Readers will be sad to hear that Robert Kearney, Professor of Political Science, Syracuse University, the first American scholar to study the language and secessionist questions in Sri Lanka on which subject he published books and articles that, among other things, analysed the plight of the Tamils of Sri Lanka, is seriously ill.

* * *

Godfrey Gunatilake, former civil servant, one time Secretary to Don Stephen Senanayake, Prime Minister, 1947-52, and presently head of Marga Institute in Colombo, when addressing a meeting of NGOS in Geneva recently on the Sri Lanka issue responded negatively on whether federalism could be a solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic problem.

* * *

Dr. K. Indrapala, Professor of History and Dean of Arts, Faculty, University of Jaffna, a recognized scholar on the Tamils of Sri Lanka has resigned his position to take up an academic post in an Australian university.

* * *

Madam Bandaranaike in an interview to the Canadian-based ***The Sunday Star,*** *stated among other things "we are against linking (of the Northern and Eastern Provinces). No Sinhalese will agree to that. It is a most dangerous thing. If Trincomalee gets under them, it means they are going to control that base." She is interested in applying the Yugoslav system to Sri Lanka: "they are a socialist democracy; they are not all that Communist as people think; they're liberal; I go to Yugoslavia once a year for my treatment of an arthritic condition, so I know." We wonder whether she could achieve this transformation peacefully. Remember: Yugoslavia's Tito killed over 500,000 of his fellow nationals during his long reign (note: the UNP government's security forces and Pakistani-trained black uniformed men (a reincarnation of Mussolini's Blackshirts) have killed over 4000 Tamils, and in the style of Hitler, Mussolini and Idi Amin, forced more than 120,0000 Tamils to flee Sri Lanka: a scale of comparison between Yugoslavia and Sri Lanka could reveal similarities).*

* * *

Britain's **The Economist,** in an editorial titled "Day of the young rebels: From South Africa to Ulster and **Sri Lanka** (emphasis ours), something new is happening" states among other things, "the rebels will grow older and more prudent, until they in turn see the point of compromise. For that governments and peoples can only wait." The editorial writer presumably forgot that there is a coming generation of young people who will replace 'the older'. Then what happens? Our view: an immediate solution; for as the famous economist, the late Lord Keynes once remarked: "we live in a world of short runs; in the long run we are all dead." In the case of we Tamils, many of us are more than dead, much much more prematurely dead than even Lord Keynes had contemplated.

* * *

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine (U.S.A.) held a seminar on 7 and 8 March (1986) at which K.M. de Silva (the historian), A.J. Wilson and W. Howard Wriggins among others participated.

This sounds interesting; readers might watch for further developments.

Academic Trails

STEP 1

Samuel P. Huntington, Harvard's famed political scientist and Director of its Center for International Affairs organised a one-day conference for 7 March (1986) to consider the current conflict in Sri Lanka; the conference was to be chaired by Subramaniam Swamy (Visiting Professor of Economics at Harvard) and Dr. James Manor of Harvard's Department of Government. Among participants were members of the U.S. Congress, senior diplomats representing Sri Lanka, India and the U.S., spokespeople for Tamil groups and scholars specializing on South Asia, human rights and conflict resolution.

SALVO 1

The conference was postponed for 4 April (1986) owing "to procedural difficulties that are beyond our control". So wrote James Manor and Subramaniam Swamy to the participants.

SALVO 2

Ambassador Corea wrote to the organizers protesting 'failures' on their part to observe procedures which he thought should be observed.

STEP 2

Manor wrote to invitees that the proposed conference has had to be postponed.

SALVO 3

Ambassador Corea reportedly called the postponement a triumph for intellectual honesty.

Tailpiece: (Our mole (who hails from the other side) stated triumphantly that the organizers are rumoured to have received 'death threats'.

Moral: hereafter the organizers of all seminars on Sri Lanka held in the United States and other parts of the western world had better get these cleared by the Sri Lanka authorities.

Lesson: Harvard University's library is not for burning unlike the Jaffna public library.

* * *

The Right Honourable Dame Judith Hart, M.P. a former cabinet minister in the Labour government has dedicated herself to the cause of the murdered innocents and "disappeared" Tamils of Sri Lanka. She has called on all aid-givers to Sri Lanka to pressure the Jayawardene government to negotiate a peaceful settlement. An International Emergency Committee on Sri Lanka has been set up, its Chair being Dame Judith and Vice Chairs, Bishop Desmond Tutu (South Africa) and Senator Alan Missen of Australia. A special issue entitled ***EMERGENCY SRI LANKA 1986,*** *very lucid and readable, has been put out by* ***International Alert*** *founded in 1985 "to focus attention on problems of group conflict which violate human rights, inhibit development, and result in mass killings and even genocide."*

* * *

A Publication put out by Greenwood Press, London, 1985 with the title **Freedom in the World: Political Rights and Civil Liberties 1984-1985** edited by Raymond D. Gastil with essays by Samuel P. Huntington (note, he was the organiser of the Harvard seminar which Corea 'aborted'), on its section on Sri Lanka, rates Sri Lanka's "Status of Freedom" as 'partly free' and when concluding on the question of comparability of other states with Sri Lanka states that "Sri Lanka is as free as Mexico, freer than Indonesia, less free than India." (Note: President Suharto's forces killed over a million Indonesians when he seized power from President Sukarno in 1968; this should be compared with the UNP government's frequency rates of killing referred to earlier).

Canada offers sanctuary

THE 152 REFUGEES who "fled" to Canada received a mixed reception in the British Media. Sentiments ranged from an understanding of the background to their exodus, of fear and deprivation, to finding incriminating evidence to contradict unsupported statements of the harassed refugees themselves.

What is patently obvious however is that they were fleeing from a situation of terror, as ordinary civilians unable to continue their life without risk and have used all available resources to undertake a perilous journey out of their Homeland. Dear life is all they carry with themselves and human sympathy and understanding is all they ask for. It does not behove the world fraternity to cavil at how they came or what mode of transport they used or where they stopped to refresh themselves. Two things are certain: They are Tamils and they come from Sri Lanka.

Canada has known best and human understanding has prevailed.

Thank you from the Tamil Times.

Prayers, Blood Donations to mark Black July Anniversary

The third Anniversary of the "Black July Massacre" in Sri Lanka was commemorated in Toronto, Canada with prayers and blood donations by several hundreds of Tamil expatriates and Canadian sympathisers, on the 25th July.

About 70 Tamils donated blood to the Canadian Red Cross. These activities were coordinated by Mr. Wijayanathan of the Eelam Tamil Association of Canada.

WLTS PRIZEWINNER

Point duty: a pupil at the West London Tamil School waits for her prize at the speech day. Children from the 150-pupil school also took part in traditional Tamil songs, dances, plays and music. The school has run Saturday morning classes for the past eight years, based at Stanhope Middle School, Greenford.

LETTERS

IS IT WORTH?

The 'Diary of Incidents' you publish in three pages in your esteemed Journal is to me a veritable monologue of the daily killings and atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan armed forces and its side-kick, the Home Guards. Sometimes, your coverage even extends to listing of names and addresses of the victims who suffered their fate perhaps six months earlier. No doubt this information is of great value to organisations like the Amnesty International but, for monthly journals of this stature, to recount such incidents on a day to day basis without comment or criticism is merely to catalogue details best preserved elsewhere.

Ever since July '83, Tamil records are replete with gruesome massacres and almost daily killings and atrocities perpetrated against innocent civilians and tantamount to genocide. Every accepted norm in civilised society is being violated with callous impunity by a State nominating itself as a "Five-Star Democracy". In such a calamity is it worth your while recounting these stories (belated as they are) day by day?

Should you not put this space to better use? One would like to see more thought-provoking articles of value dealing with the future of a Nation in peril, its political and economic future at stake.

London, SW7
6th August, 1986

Yours truly,
A. Sivam

HUMAN COST OF 'MILITARISM'

THOSE who seek a military solution to Sri Lanka's current conflict, on both sides, forget the human cost. Such militarism has already brought terrible suffering to innocent Tamils, and increasingly to civilians of other ethnic groups.

We welcome the current peace proposals. They meet the main Tamil demands. Indeed, Sri Lankans of all communities will appreciate the increase in local democracy. What is more, the resources currently devoted to destruction can be used to tackle poverty, unemployment, problems in the health and education services and the plight of refugees.

There are nationalist politicians who are more concerned with getting power than with the welfare of those they seek to represent. Their warlike rhetoric and actions should not be allowed to deter more responsible leaders from negotiating a just and peaceful settlement.

Yours faithfully,
Tamils for Justice and Peace in Sri Lanka
BM JPSL
London, WC1.

Matrimonial Advertisements

I have been an avid reader of your paper from the time it came out, almost five years ago. Recently, you started publishing advertisements for brides and bridegrooms. Up to the last issue I could see that over 100 such advertisements have appeared within a period of fifteen months. Perhaps, because of all the upheavals that have taken place, the traditional methods of arranging marriages are not in vogue any more. People therefore have to resort to other methods, including these matrimonial advertisements. What disappoints me is the continuous yearning after "professional" brides and bridegrooms, wanted by doting mothers and fathers. In this hour of our peril with National survival at stake, should we not be looking for just decent men and women, husbands and wives, who can make a happy home and be loyal loving partners? Time was when our young men, and even women, were educated at great sacrifice, with parents stinting all the way to pay for their children's education or to put by money for a dowry. It was therefore considered necessary to get back this outlay of money by "capturing" a professional son-in-law or a rich daughter-in-law. Cannot we now change our ways and just work towards a society where materialism does not rule the day?

Father of two ('Unprofessional') sons
London, SE20

S.C.O.T. – HOMELESS?

AS A VISITOR to London and as one somewhat familiar with the activities of S.C.O.T. and its useful service in shaping International opinion whilst exposing the human rights violations in Sri Lanka, I am no doubt bewildered to find that such an Organisation has so far found no home of its own or a permanent office for that matter. Much smaller groups, perhaps far less representative, are no doubt better endowed by their benefactors. Isn't it time that S.C.O.T. ran an office which it could truly call its own?

London, W13
6th August, 1986

S.C.O.T. Wellwisher

DR. BRIAN SENEWIRATNE, a Consultant medical practitioner in Australia, has, for some time, dedicated himself to espousing the cause of Human Rights and its violations in Sri Lanka, with particular reference to the Tamil Community and its fight for survival in Sri Lanka. He represents a group of enlightened opinion that is only slowly building up among the majority community which the Tamils of Sri Lanka yearn to see and hear. It is this very lack of understanding of fundamental problems that has created the present bitterness among the two major communities, and purposefully perpetrated and exploited by politicians on both sides of the current confrontation. "We would love to see a thousand more Senewiratnes express their views openly and fearlessly at least in the world forums for the international community to learn the truth", said an observer in London while complimenting Dr. Senewiratne on his efforts. On his way from New York he addressed a series of meetings in London and Birmingham during August. *K.R.S.*

'SCURRILOUS DOCUMENT'

By Lankan Shadowy Group In Queensland

The following is the text of a speech made in the Australian House of Representatives during the adjournment debate by Mr. Hollis, MP for Throsby on 30 April 1986:

MR. HOLLIS *(Throsby) – Recently a document was delivered not only to my office but also to all offices of members of this Parliament. I might say that it is quite a scurrilous document and one in which I figure quite prominently, as do my colleagues the honourable member for Hotham (Mr. Kent) and the honourable member for Lowe (Mr. Maher). Why, might I ask, do we three members figure quite prominently in this document? It is because we have had the audacity to stand up and talk for a persecuted and a tortured minority in the world today. That minority is the Tamils of Sri Lanka. The three of us have spoken up on this matter.*

Surprisingly, a group in Queensland – a very shadowy and strange group, I might say – called the Queensland Association for Sri Lankan Unity has taken offence at what the honourable member for Hotham and I have said. The members of this group, I suppose at great expense to themselves, have produced this document. One might well ask where the funding came from to produce this document in which the three of us figure quite prominently. In the document the group talks about the coverage that the Tamil minority receives in this country and hints that the Tamils are being very well funded and had received wide publicity, there would be no need for members of this House to draw attention to the denial of human rights and the atrocities that are being committed against these people.

I have never before had such attention devoted to any of my speeches in this House. Members of this group have gone through various adjournment speeches I have made. They have actually analysed them. They have also republished some correspondence I exchanged with them. They have very selectively quoted from my speeches, as they have selectively quoted what I wrote to them. If honourable members care to look at copies of Hansard *they will see that when I speak on the Tamil situation I always condemn violence wherever it occurs and will always speak up against the denial of human rights, whoever may be denying them. The members of this group did not bother mentioning that in this document. They also seemed to take offence at something I said when I called on the Sri Lanka High Commission to stop its stooges – I repeat, to stop its stooges – photographing Tamil people protesting against the denial of human rights in Sri Lanka. They ask where this has occurred. I will tell them where it has occurred. It has occurred at the last three meetings of the Australian Labor Party at annual conferences in Sydney, at which I have organised Tamil groups to hand out literature. It did not happen last year because the preceding three years the stooges directed by the Sri Lankan High Commission here in Canberra had arranged for these people to be photographed. They were mostly students in this country. I do not know what the Sri Lankan High Commission does with these photographs, but they were probably sent back to Sri Lanka where these people have families. One may well ask what will be the fate of these families.*

I repeat that this group quote very selectively. It does not mention anyone who is in favour of the Sri Lankan Government, but it goes on to make a serious attack on Amnesty International. Many members of this House are members of the Parliamentary Group of Amnesty International. I find it outrageous that this shadowy group in Queensland should attack a world-wide organisation devoted to the protection of human rights in the way that it has. Far from silencing me, such attacks will only strengthen my resolve to continue to speak out for the persecuted minority – that is, the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. Rather than silencing me, they have only strengthened my resolve to speak out, and I will continue to speak out while ever the denial of basic human rights continues in Sri Lanka.

(From Hansard, pages 2792 and 2793, 30 April 1986)

NORTHERN FISHING INDUSTRY KNOCKED OUT BY GOVERNMENT ACTION

By D.B.S. JEYARAJ

Over one lakh of persons have been rendered destitute as a result of the Government ban on fishing in the North. 18,895 fishing families in the Jaffna and Kilinochchi Districts have been deprived of their primary source of livelihood and are now eking out a miserable living on the meagre dole provided as relief.

The once flourishing fishing industry of the North is virtually non-existent as a result of security measures like the surveillance zone, prohibited zone, territorial zone and now the taboo on fishing in the Jaffna lagoon.

Although deep-sea fishing and to a lesser extent coastal fishing had been proscribed from 1984 the Jaffna fishermen had continued to survive through lagoon fishing.

Last month's ban on lagoon fishing had proved to be the death-knell of the fishing industry. Incidentally the ban came into force within two days of the brutal killing of 31 Gurunagar fishermen at Mandaitivu by uniformed men.

Technically fishing had been made impossible by the prohibited zone of December, 1984. Interim measures taken on a humanitarian basis allowed fishing within limits to continue since mid-85.

The state decided to re-enforce the fishing ban on 2nd March this year to prevent the "continuing flow of men and material from South India to Northern Sri Lanka" said a spokesman. The rationale was to eliminate the need to differentiate between a 'fishing' boat and a 'militant' boat. The sea is now clear and any boat seen would be deemed an 'enemy' he said.

The national security-conscious state's objective of curbing 'terrorism' has spawned several bizarre proposals bordering on hilarity in the past. Ban bicycles in the North because the 'boys' come and kill on cycles was one; ban lorries carrying produce to Colombo because bombs could be hidden among onions was another. Preventing the Northern fisherman from pursuing his traditional occupation is also part of the same tortuous logic. One is inclined to laugh at the whole thing if not for the fact that the issue affecting a vital sector of the economy is above all a human tragedy.

Relief to the unemployed fishermen is of two kinds. Families that were already getting food stamps are provided with an additional set of stamps. Seven thousand families fall under this category. Another 11 thousand families who were not entitled to food stamps earlier are now getting two sets of food stamps.

The second kind of relief to fishing families is another card on which foodstuffs could be bought from M.P.C.S. Stores. The monthly value of this card is Rs.200 for families less than 5 in number and Rs.250 for more than 5. Since most families are large in number the money is inadequate.

The fishermen's problems have been further compounded by the shelling and bombing of coastal areas by Air, Sea and Land. Many families have been compelled to leave their villages and take refuge elsewhere. Apart from bureaucratic delays the entire destruction of Jaffna food stamps at Kilinochchi has proved a further setback. Fishermen also point woefully to the boats and motors that remain idle now. Most of these were purchased on credit and repaying the loans is not possible. Several boats have been destroyed by the Security forces.

Another factor to be taken note of is the effect on people who were not directly employed in fishing but were dependent on the industry (trade etc.). There seems to be no provision of relief for this category.

The curbs on fishing do not affect Jaffna and Kilinochchi alone but also other Tamil-speaking districts like Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee and Batticaloa. Together these districts account for more than half the total fish production of Sri Lanka. The waters to the West, North and East of Jaffna District were known as the 'Fishing Triangle' of Sri Lanka. Combined with activity in the lagoon it was perhaps the only district in Sri Lanka where productive fishing was possible the whole year.

The punch aimed at 'militant' traffic has knocked out the Northern fishing industry; it is not the only casualty. The overall economy of Sri Lanka too has taken a heavy blow. In 1982 the peak year of fish production Jaffna with 42,667 metric tons topped the chart. It accounted for 23.7 of the total volume. Negombo came second with 11.54 of the total production; Jaffna also produced more than 45 per cent of the country's exports of shrimp, beche-de-mer and chanks. The total value of marine exports was valued at Rs.491.4 million in 1983. With the introduction of the 'zones' in 1984, fish production and exports have started plummeting. From an above forty thousand ton level, production decreased to thirteen thousand in 1984 and 4,000 tons in 1985. This year's production figures in January and February were very impressive with 1215.4 M. tons and 1320 M. tons respectively. The ban in March saw that month's figure drop to 88.5 M. tons. The subsequent relaxation on lagoon fishing saw the figure picking up to 199 M. tons in April. The statistics for May and June are not available yet. The June ban however is sure to hit production levels badly.

Fish supplies the largest amount of protein in the Sri Lankan diet. The Government has cushioned the impact of the shortfall in production by importing large quantities of canned and dry fish. In Jaffna despite the ban a small quantity of fish is yet available. This is made possible because of fishermen who venture out at dawn and dusk at great risk to their own lives. The religious vows connected to temples have resulted in rising vegetarian food consumption. There is also an aversion towards eating fish because of the various bodies floating in the sea. Since demand has dropped the prices seem to have stabilised to a reasonable level although certain types of fish are sold for more than Rs.60 per kilo.

The 182 mile Jaffna coastline and the 3360 sq. mile continental shelf boasts of a 110 metric ton fish yield per 5 square miles. Jaffna's fishing fleet of 3379 mechanical and 2563 non-mechanised craft was the pride of Sri Lanka once. Now only 3 of the 12 ice-plants in the district are functioning. The mobile fish sales service is defunct; the fish processing plant and cold storage facilities are being utilised below capacity.

While the fishermen languish on land the Fisheries Ministry goes ahead with grandiose plans of revitalising the industry. One assumes that the Fisheries Ministry either consulted or at the least is aware of the plight of the Northern Fishermen. The Ministry's latest brainchild is the village level Fisheries Social Development Organisation to be set up on an island-wide level. In contemporary Jaffna fishermen are deprived of their livelihood; families are abandoning the coastal villages and moving to the interior; boats are beached permanently; in such a climate the Fisheries Ministry Scheme is like a fish out of water in Jaffna. The Minister in charge Mr. Festus Perera should immediately take action in consultation with the Security authorities and save the Northern Fishermen.

(Courtesy of "SATURDAY REVIEW", 12.7.86)

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MEDIA FILE

By Mervyn de Silva

DANGER OF ROCKING THE TAMILNADU BOAT

WARDED for the past ten days in the Jaffna hospital is 40 year old Kanapathy, a wounded Tamilnadu fisherman over whom both Delhi and Colombo have thrown a blanket of official silence, in spite of a flurry of diplomatic notes and polite and not-so-polite "protests" and defensive explanations and replies between the two capitals. In normal circumstances, Mr. Kanapathy would be a 'nobody'. In the present, highly delicate preliminary round of talks between the TULF and the Sri Lankan government, the poor injured fisherman from Rameswaram could be described as a V.I.P. for his tragic tale could do much more than rock the boat.

He is so important that Kanapathy whose very existence was officially denied by some authorities is, according to unconfirmed reports from Jaffna, guarded day and night by some "Tiger" militiamen! Probably worried about his safety, the Tigers don't want him to be removed from the hospital.

The man has meantime been visited by his boss, the owner of a small fishing fleet in Rameswaram. This unpublicised ('secret') trip to Jaffna was made possible by the Sri Lankan government responding to a firm request by Delhi. His statement in any case has been recorded by the Jaffna authorities.

The man who has a couple of bullet wounds in his body as evidence of the veracity of his story belonged to a 'search party' sent from Rameswaram to look for two fishing boats which had set sail from the Tamilnadu coast on July 1 and had not returned. The boats, it was feared, had drifted into Sri Lanka waters, as it so often happens, both ways.

The search party was stopped by the Sri Lankan navy. When explanations were offered the officer in command of the navy patrol boat had been extremely sympathetic and helpful. He had allowed the search vessel to look for the missing boats and had in fact given the 'skipper' of the Rameswaram boat (Ancharneyan No. 1) a permit.

Sometime later, the boat was ordered to stop by a Sri Lankan vessel with 'uniformed personnel' on board. The permit was waved but to no effect. The boat was sprayed with bullets from automatic weapons. Kanapathy wounded, hid in the engine room. And then quietly slipped over the side from the boat now on fire. He was finally rescued by a catamaran and then left at a small dispensary some miles from Jaffna.

That was his story. Nine bodies – first six, and then three – were washed ashore later. These highly decomposed bodies have now been buried in Jaffna.

The Sun, the only paper to publish the story, quoted a Defence Ministry official's flat denial of the incident, and also a comment that if "uniformed personnel" were in fact the attackers they must have been "terrorists trying to scuttle the peace process".

Delhi refused to 'buy' the story, and insisted that Kanapathy's statement be recorded and a full inquiry made. Delhi was angry but for very good reasons, didn't go public.

On the last occasion that a similar incident occurred there were stormy demonstrations in Rameswaram and the Tamilnadu government pressed Delhi for action.

When an Indian coastguard vessel seized a Sri Lankan navy patrol boat some weeks later and took its crew into custody the 'coincidence' was marked well by all diplomats in Colombo. Finally, 17 Tamilnadu fishermen facing charges for poaching on Sri Lankan territorial waters were 'exchanged' in a diplomatic deal for the naval crew.

In post-independence India, it was Tamilnadu that first raised the separatist banner. The leadership came from the DMK, which later split into two, the AIDMK of MGR now in power in Madras, and Mr. Karunanidhi his bitter opponent, still a powerful force in Tamilian politics. The AIDMK has the ruling Congress (I) as its coalition partner.

When the militant groups were summoned to Thimpu, Mr. Prabhakaran went into hiding. His patron is MGR; and he himself something of a folk hero in Tamilnadu.

But Delhi can deal even with him quite easily if it makes up its mind to use its military muscle.

Delhi can, and has dealt with the TULF which is why the exiles have returned. The

Continued on page 19

Flash

A senior Indian High Commission official will fly to Jaffna to bring the wounded Tamilnadu fisherman Kanapathy to Colombo who will leave for Madras if the doctors okay the trip. With Kanapathy in Jaffna is the boss of the fishing company, Ramasamy. On the 14th, Indian High Commission presented its fourth 'note verbale' on the matter to the Foreign Ministry. Six of the bodies of the nine fishermen killed in the 'mystery' attack were buried in Jaffna, and the others cremated. Nervous about Tamilnadu reactions and an uproar in Parliament, both sides are keeping the matter under wraps.

TRINCOMALEE BESIEGED BY FEAR OF COMMUNAL STRIFE

From Eric Silver in Trincomalee

TRINCOMALEE is desperate for peace. A port without trade, a resort without tourists, it is a city besieged by its own fear, conscious that it cannot contribute more than its prayers to the Sri Lankan negotiations which enter a second week today in Colombo, 160 miles across the island.

"Everyone is afraid of everybody else," said a Muslim cloth merchant who declined to be named. "We lie awake at night waiting for bombs to go off," one of his customers added. "Some nights there are none and we get no sleep at all."

Drivers refuse to take you out of town on the roads north and west. That, they tell you, is Tiger territory, the domain of the Tamil Tigers and the security forces and Sinhalese vigilantes with whom they have been waging a war of terror and counter-terror for the past three years.

Mr. Kandaratnam Sivapalan, the Tamil president of the Trincomalee Citizens' Committee, a voluntary body working for communal coexistence, estimated yesterday that about 1,100 Tamils and 250 Sinhalese civilians have been killed in this district since June, 1983: the Government announced yesterday that guerrillas killed 13 more Sinhalese farmers in two villages on Saturday. About 37,000 Tamils and 17,000 Sinhalese have fled their homes in neighbouring villages.

Unlike the overwhelming Tamil north, the east coast is a mixed area. At the last census in 1981, the Trincomalee district had 98,000 Sinhalese Tamils and 80,000 Muslims. The Government's policy of settling landless Sinhalese is since believed to have raised the majority community over the 100,000 mark.

Mr. Sivapalan, two of whose sons have been murdered, accused the security forces or the Sinhalese home guard of destroying 40 Tamil villages here in the past year alone. The Tigers have retaliated in kind, though many of the Sinhalese villagers were evacuated before the guerrillas struck.

About 24,000 refugees are housed in 45 camps in or near Trincomalee, where they find what work they can and receive subsistence rations from the government. The camp in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic school is home to 650 Tamils, 156 families. In one classroom eight families, 45 people, live together.

Mr. Ramalingham Nadarajan, a 38-year-old peasant farmer, travelled there last August from Pankulam with his wife and four children, aged four to 13. "We ran away," he explained, "After a band of Sinhalese armed with knives came into our village, and murdered six men and women. They burned all the Tamils' houses. They wanted to frighten us away."

His neighbour, Mr. Sinniah Selvarajah, a year-old labourer with five children, added: "The Sinhalese said 'this is our place. If you don't leave, we shall kill you.' If we had stayed, we would have been killed."

The menfolk go out in search of casual jobs, but the women and children keep to the safety of the camp – a relative safety, when 67 refugees were reported to have been massacred by the security forces in an outlying camp last week. All the families said they wanted to go back home, but only if there was a political solution and they felt secure.

Father Peter Kurukula Aratchi, the local Jesuit superior, said: "The people here are very depressed. They have no family life, no education for the children, no privacy." Many of the refugees are suffering from malnutrition, though none appeared to be starving. The women cook separately in a shared kitchen.

Trincomalee is under curfew every night from 8 pm to 4 am, but the guerrillas last week managed to blow up a soft drinks bottling plant after midnight (the same firm was hit in Colombo six weeks earlier), and a Japanese cement works is still silent after another bombing.

Mrs. Subashini Varadhan, a Tamil lawyer and secretary of the citizens' committee, pinned her hopes – however reluctantly – on the Government to reverse the trend to violence. No one else could do it, she said. Trincomalee must watch the negotiations and suspend judgement until an agreement was reached and implemented.

"We shall go into it very deeply," she added. "Till then we may have to live in difficult times for a little longer."

(THE GUARDIAN, London, 22/7/86)

From Canada

5,000 Tamil Refugees to Receive Immigrant Status

ABOUT 5,000 Sri Lankan Tamils (out of 21,500 refugees from all parts of the world) who arrived in Canada before 21st May 1986 will receive landed immigrant status. The Federal Government announced on 21st May that the vast majority of more than 21,500 people in Canada, now seeking refugee status, will be accepted as landed immigrants.

This decision is part of a long-awaited reform of the refugee determination process. The Immigration Department from 15th July will begin a case-by-case "administrative review" of its backlog of cases, giving priority to the cases before the Immigration Appeal Board. The Government hopes to have a new refugee-determination process written into law, debated and passed by Parliament next year.

Mr. Walter McLean, Minister of State for Immigration, had earlier rejected the notion of a general amnesty, citing concerns about the integrity of the immigration process. He had said that Canada cannot be seen as rewarding queue-jumpers while thousands wait abroad to immigrate legally. The Government hopes that the new programme will avoid creating an incentive for a fresh influx of claimants in the transition period while the new process is written into law.

Under the proposed 'clearance" immigration officers will take into consideration the presence of family members in Canada who are willing and able to assist a claimant, and the proven ability of the individual to establish himself successfully in Canada. He will also have to meet the standard security and medical requirements. Those who are unsuccessful in the administrative clearance will have the right of a hearing, and claimants who arrive after 21st May will receive a hearing under an expedited process until the new procedure is in place.

It is hoped that the huge backlog will be cleared within two years. With a streamlined interim screening system, the Government seeks to discourage asylum seekers from coming to Canada and making bogus refugee claims. In this connection, it was disclosed that Canada's refugee process has been flooded by more than 1,600 Portuguese citizens claiming they were refugees from religious persecution, since they were Jehovah's Witnesses. An investigation had later revealed that the majority of these were Roman Catholics and that there was no persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses in Portugal.

In this connection, a public meeting was held in Montreal on 31st May under the auspices of the Eelam Tamil Association of Quebec. Mrs. Joyce Yedid and Joseph Allen, two well-known lawyers, who participated, stated that Sri Lankans arriving in Canada after 21st May and seeking asylum will be given a Minister's permit as well as a work permit, valid for a year, subject to renewal, provided they do not have any criminal or other impediments. It was also stated that Sri Lanka has now been included in the list of countries having a "no deportation" clause, which in effect means that no Sri Lankan in Canada will be deported at the present moment under normal circumstances.

New Year Celebrations

THE Tamil community in Montreal celebrated the Hindu New Year on a modest note this year, on 20th April with a cultural pageant, held at Place St. Henry Auditorium. Mr. Fernand Jordenais, MP, graced the occasion. The programme consisted of music recitals, Bharatha Natya dances, plays and light songs. This event provided local Tamil artists to display their talents, so far away from home.

The event terminated with a dinner served to all, when an opportunity was provided for everyone to meet one another and discuss their varied problems and interests.

International Day

THe Eelam Tamil Association of Quebec in Montreal participated in the International Day, conducted by the Maison International on 17th May 1986. This event gave the Association a means to introduce the Sri Lankan Tamil community to the people of Quebec and appraise them of the problems Tamils face in Sri Lanka.

The Association ran its own stall where Sri Lankan and Tamil handicrafts were displayed, and a brochure explaining the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka was distributed. Besides, home-cooked meals and sweet meats in Sri Lankan style were sold. These were avidly snapped up.

New Office Bearers

THe following were appointed office bearers of the Eelam Tamil Association of Quebec in Montreal, consequent to the resignation of the incumbent President and Secretary, due to personal reasons:

Mr. S. Ponnusamy – President; *Mr. K. Kanagarajah* – Vice President; *Mr. B. Karunanthan* – Secretary; *Mr. S. N. Surendran* – Assistant Secretary; *Mr. R. Ganeshanathan* – Treasurer.

Montreal Tamils commemorate '83 July Massacre

TAMILS in Montreal commemorated the 1983 July massacre with a week-long programme conducted by the Eelam Tamil Association of Quebec. Many donated blood at the local Red Cross centre. Hundreds went on a march through the streets of Montreal, carrying placards, protesting at the killings of thousands of innocent Tamil civilians in the North and East of Sri Lanka by the armed forces and the newly-equipped Home Guards.

A day-long fast was observed by many Tamils at the Immigration centre on Saturday, 26th July, during which devotional and religious songs were recited. A video film was screened, showing many of the incidents of the 1983 massacre as well as recent ones.

The activities culminated with a special Service of Remembrance at St. Stephen's Church, on Sunday, 27th July.

MEDIA FILE

continued from page 18

'boys' too were in Delhi last weekend for talks with Mr. G. Parathasarthy, Mr. Venkataswaran and others.

The key link in the chain however is MGR or more accurately Tamilnadu political opinion. Especially at a time of such turbulence in Indian politics, and ominous eruptions of sectarian violence in Punjab and Gujarat, Mr. Gandhi must act cautiously. His chief aide Mr. Chidambaram has handled the Tamil issue extremely well, and he is already on the up-and-up. If the peace process is to get underway seriously, Tamilnadu with its 50 million people must be appeased at any cost.

(Courtesy of "LANKA GUARDIAN", 15 July, 1986)

Anandarajan Memorial Pavilion

MR. T. GUNASEELAN, Principal, St. John's College, Jaffna, and Mr. S.M.V. Tissainayagam, President of the Old Boys Association have issued a joint appeal for funds to build the above Pavilion.

Contributions may be sent to: Treasurer, Old Boys' Association, St. John's College, Jaffna for credit of "Pavilion Fund".

Mr. Anandarajan, while he was alive, had been actively canvassing the support of old boys for the construction of this Pavilion which, he felt, was the one major building which a College of the standing of St. John's lacked.

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Tamil Folk, Dance: Dancers to be announced.

Gavin Ewart: reading from Tambimuttu's **Poetry London,** Vol.1.

Enion Evans: reading from his poem, Island, which won him the Chair at the 1983 National Eisteddfod. We respond with Translations in Tamil by Punita Perinparaja, Kala Anjali, and in Sinhala by a member of the Sri Lankan Arts Forum.

Two Highland Dances: Thanks to Collin Robertson, Scottish National Dance Co., Reading.

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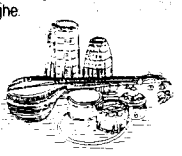

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Mother seeks Tamil Christian bridegroom, good mixer, mid 30's for working daughter, UK citizen, home owner. ***Box M115*** *c/o Tamil Times.*

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Tamil Christian parents seek suitable partners for their son, aged 29, British qualified engineer in UK, daughter final year accountancy student, aged 24. Please write details. All correspondence treated confidentially. ***Box M121*** *c/o Tamil Times.*

DEATHS

S.S. KANDAIYA (SEGA), Attorney-at-law Colombo. Husband of Parimala (neé Sivagurunathan), father of Shiranee (U.S.A.) and Prathab, father-in-law of K. Sriram (Engineer U.S.A.), son of late C.T. Kandaiya and Mrs. Kandaiya, brother of Mrs. Vettivelu, late Mr. N. Kandaiya, Mrs. Sathivel, Mrs. Kumaraswamy, late Mrs. Arulambalam and late Mr. Parajasingham. Cremation 9th June. 6, Kotalawela Terrace, Off Ashoka Gardens, Colombo 4.

K.C. KAMALANATHAN, Advocate, husband of Yogeswari (Yoga), son of late V.K. Chinniah of Trincomalee and Mrs. K. Chinniah, father of Dharshini, Suvendrini, Lokini and Umesh, father-in-law of Stewart Wilkrison (U.K.) brother of late Kamalanesan, Kamalabaskaran (U.K.), Kamalachandran (Australia), Kamalaranjini Muthulingam (Sudan), and Kamala Sabayson (Attorney Generals Dept.). Cremation in Lesotho (South Africa) 65, Deanstone Place, Colombo – 3.

MURUGESU PASUPATHY, (Rtd. Chief Acct. Customs) Husband of Thillaimalar (Rtd. Teacher, Ramanathan College) father of Mrs. Sahalakalavalli Karunakaran (Nigeria) Mrs. Chitrakala Logeswaran (Botswana), Umasuthan (Auditor Generals Dept. Colombo) and Miss Sivasakthi (Ramanathan College). Funeral 19th June "Lakshmivaram", Uduvil, Chunnakam.

C. SARAVANAMUTTU, (Rtd. Chief Post Master) son of late S. Chinniah, Malayan Pensioner, Kokuvil husband of Sreemathyamma, father of Srinivasan (Bank of Ceylon, Colombo) Srirajan (Canada), Sritharan (Abudhabi), Sarathathevy (U.K.), Srithasan (Abudhabi). Funeral 16th June. "Sreemathy vasa", Suthumalai Centre, Manipay.

MRS. YOGAMMAH SUBRAMANIAM, Teacher, Chavakachcheri Hindu College, wife of Mr. V. Subramaniam, (Retired Principal), mother of Dr. Seethaluxmy Murugeswaran (UK), Dr. s. Vijayaluxmy (Teacher Hospital, Jaffna), Dr. S. Kugathason, (Teaching Hospital, Jaffna) and Mr. S. Sivathasan (UK). Funeral took place at her residence at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 17th July 1986.

LILY THARMARATNAM of "Singha Mahal", Sandilipay, wife of S.D. Tharmaratnam (Retd. Co-Operative Inspector), mother of Mrs Prem Xavier (UK), Bobby (Australia), Tharmaseelan (UK), and Kanan (Tamil Nadu), sister of Mrs Navamalar Navaratnam (Tamil Nadu) and Edward Kanagasooriyar (Mathagal). Funeral 23rd July – Sutton & Merton Cemetery. 30 Milner Road, LONDON SW19 3AA.

HERTS TAMIL SCHOOL

The Inaugural ceremony of the HERTS TAMIL SCHOOL was held at the MULTI-RACIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE, Durban Road West, Watford on the 17th August.

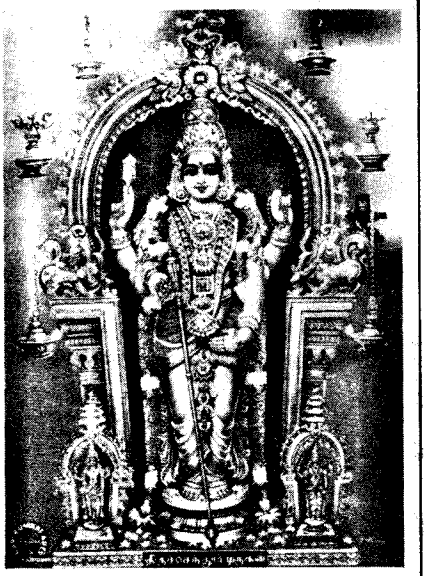
Registration of students followed.

Details of classes and study programmes are available from the Secretary of the Education Committee.

Telephone: Watford (0923) 41458/662811.

MURUGAN TEMPLE

Archway, London



The MAHA KUMBABISHEKAM *(Consecration Ceremony)* **of the Highgate Hill Murugan Temple was conducted between the 9th and 13th July officiated by eleven distinguished Sivachariars and Kurukals from India and Sri Lanka. Siva Shri Sambamurthy Sivachariar of Madras inaugurated the proceedings.**

Devotees flocked in their thousands to participate in the Consecration Ceremonies which began with the Yaga Poojas followed by anointing the Deities sculptured in India and their final installation and consecration at the Temple designed and executed by the famous Indian Temple Sculptor Shri Muruganandan.

The Britannia Hindu (Shiva) Temple Trust and its long time Chairman, Mr. Sabapathipillai earned the plaudits and gratitude of the Hindu public for their persistent and untiring efforts to bring to a successful conclusion a project undertaken some ten years ago.

OBITUARY

PARAMES WALTON, died on the 14th July, in a motor accident in Nigeria, where she had been a teacher in the Women's Teachers College, Kabomo. She leaves behind three sisters, Saraswathy Chelliah (*former Principal, Chundikuli Girls College*), Eva Alagaratnam, Mano Perinpanayagam and a large circle of close relatives and friends scattered throughout the world.

Students and teachers of Chundikuli and St. Pauls Milagiriya, will remember Parames with affection and admiration for her talent and inspiring influence in music, singing and drama and above all for her freedom of thinking and joyous spirit.

Sounthy Perinpanayagam

P. RANGANATHAN

Popularly known as Ranga, he was born and bred in Trincomalee. He had his higher secondary education at Jaffna College, where he made many friends. He practised his profession as an Attorney at Law in Trincomalee, where he defended courageously his clients without fear or favour. Though he bridged the unity of the Sinhalese and Tamils in his marriage, he never forgot his Tamil and his deep commitment to the literature of his people. We mourn his death at the hands of the unruly Home Guards, one more innocent victim of the ever escalating violence.

DR. SINNADURAI SUPPIAH

We report the untimely death in the Cameroons on 25th July of Dr. Suppiah, who was attached to the Institute of Tropical Agriculture there. Earlier, he was Professor of Crop Science in the University of Ghana. He was an old boy of Jaffna College and only recently addressed the U.K. Alumni Association of the School at its annual reunion. Cremation in London, 7th August. He leaves behind his wife, Dr. Pushparanee Suppiah, brothers Gukathason and Senthivel (Canada), Senthilingam (U.K.), Senthinesan (U.S.A.) and sisters, Mrs. R. Suntharathas (Lesotho) and Mrs. S. Sivananthan (U.K.).

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MIRJE Calls For Extension Of Government Proposals

THE Movement for Inter Racial Justice & Equality is glad that the Government, after a long delay which has seen a worsening of the situation, has put forward proposals for the devolution of power to the provinces as a solution to the ethnic problem.

In this context, MIRJE believes it necessary to begin by restating two basic postulates:

(i) The major problem that faces the country is ethnic in origin. The Sri Lankan Tamil people, constituted on the basis of their ethnicity, language, religion, culture and habitation have been led to demand the creation of a separate state because the existing Sri Lankan state of which they are a part discriminates against them and is unable to provide them the safety and security that a state should ensure all its citizens. Muslims and other ethnic minorities also face discrimination in varying degrees.

(ii) The development of demands for regional autonomy is uneven within Sri Lanka. It is at its most intense in the regions inhabited by Sri Lankan Tamils; other regions have hardly expressed any desire for devolution.

It is against this background that these proposals should be examined. The establishment of Provincial Councils throughout the country is being put forward by the Government as part of a continuing democratic process; it will also, according to the President at his press conference, settle one of the problems faced by the Tamil people; that means in effect that it will not totally answer all their needs. While welcoming the substantial devolution of power to the level of the province, MIRJE believes that certain specific features of the ethnic problem need to be taken into consideration in revising the proposals.

For example, the decision to adhere to existing provincial boundaries and to devolve power on the basis of territorial areas necessarily negates the desires of the Tamil people for a region in which they can, in unity and security, manage their internal affairs; a redefinition of certain provincial boundaries will be necessary to achieve this. A similar defect relates to the devolution of power with regard to education. Letting the provinces exercise power up to the level of secondary education and reserving universities, professional occupations and training to the state will hardly meet the needs of the Sri Lankan Tamils, specially when it is remembered that the denial of linguistic and educational rights largely lies behind the present struggle and that the reject of the discriminatory system of education originally constituted the militant groups.

In short, a devolution of power to all citizens based on democratic principle does not constitute a total answer to the ethnic problem. In this respect, MIRJE is glad to note the President's declaration that the government is prepared to consider any revisions that will expand the scope of devolution within the present constitutional framework. It is our belief that considerable expansion of the present proposals is possible and indeed necessary if the Sri Lankan Tamils are genuinely to feel themselves a valued part of the Sri Lankan polity.

MIRJE is, however, not happy with the government's declaration that it will implement these proposals unilaterally, if necessary. We believe that the proposals stand the best chance of evolving into a successful solution of the ethnic problem only if the representatives of the Tamils including the militants are drawn into a process of negotiation. MIRJE hopes that this will be possible with Indian assistance.

Two other matters need to be also considered:

(i) in view of the pervasive climate of mistrust between the various protagonists, some machinery that would guarantee the genuine implementation of any accords arrived at,

(ii) some mechanism to ensure that all ethnic groups have an adequate share of power at the level of the state and that fundamental and civil rights are preserved.

MIRJE therefore hopes that all progressive political parties and elements in Sri Lanka will assist in expanding the scope of the present proposals to the point that they amount to a reasonable solution of the ethnic problem and in mustering popular support for their implementation.

Charles Abeysekera, President MIRJE

"BBC REPORTERS SHOULD BE BURNT ALIVE"

The Island is an English morning daily in Sri Lanka. On 27 May its headline on page three was: **'BBC, foreign press reporting utter falsehoods on current situation'**. The author was the Speaker of Parliament, Mr. Senanayake, who wrote in his article: **'These reporters who report falsehood about the situation in Sri Lanka to the foreign press should be burned alive'**. Apparently this sort of remark is common enough not to cause alarm among journalists.

Courtesy of "Index on Censorship", 1 August, 1986

Vijaya the Second

The S.L.M.P., a splinter of the S.L.F.P., has been most vociferous in urging quick justice to the Tamils on the basis of full internal autonomy. Its leader, Vijaya Kumaranatunga, son-in-law of Mrs. B, met last month leaders of all militant groups based in Tamil Nadu. His stance has not diminished his popularity with the Sinhalese masses. Large crowds continue to attend S.L.M.P. rallies, where the consequences of failure to come to terms with Tamils are fully explained.

Gamini Navaratne: in "Times of India", 23rd July, 1986

"STOP THIS MADNESS"

WE, the mothers of the North and East, write this letter to you with distressed minds and deep hurt to lodge our protest against the armed forces' atrocities, indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians and destruction of civilian areas during the so called "offensive action" in the Jaffna Peninsula from 19th–21st May. Your armed services comprising of army, navy and air force who should be protecting the citizens of this country not only killed our men, women and children but also destroyed our homes, schools, business places, places of worship and agricultural fields.

The security personnel manning the bomber aircraft and the helicopters were ruthless in carrying out indiscriminate bombing and strafing during those 3 days, although it was considered by the Buddhists to be the sacred week preceding the Wesak. We are further disturbed by the attitude of the Government spokesman and the state owned news media in mentioning that the offensive was against enemy targets. But that has been disproved by the fact that the buildings damaged were hospitals, schools, banks, homes, etc.

We the mothers appeal to your Excellency to stop this madness. Is it beyond human ingenuity and wisdom to work out a peaceful solution that will enable us to live in peace in our land which is our basic and fundamental right? May the Lord Buddha's teachings on Ahimsa and Maithri guide your Excellency and your ministers to view these inhuman acts and solve this burning question justly and peacefully.

Government MP convicted of intimidation of police inspector

Continued from page 1

The Magistrate observed that in convicting Mr. Jayakody, he had given consideration to whether the threats made by the accused were sufficient to have caused fear in a person of average intelligence.

The nature of the threat, the Magistrate said, revealed that there was the possibility of the accused, in view of his political and social standing, causing physical harm to IP Gunatilleke, commiting an offence on his wife and causing destruction to his property.

Further the Magistrate added that the threat could have caused sufficient fear in IP Gunatilleke to prevent him from visiting his house in Polgahawela.

The Magistrate said that the prosecution produced evidence that on 11 August 1985, the accused had made the threats against IP Gunatilleke, to the then OIC Polgahawela Police IP Sarath Dhanapala and that subsequently IP Dhanapala through PC Jayasinghe had got the threat conveyed to Lakshman Rodrigo who passed it on to IP Gunatilleke.